

WHO report dismisses 'poisoning'

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday the UN-requested inquiry into the outbreak in March of a mystery illness on the Israeli-occupied West Bank failed to indicate any specific cause or causes for this "ill-defined health emergency."

The report by WHO Director-General Dr. Halfdan Mahler in effect dismissed charges raised by some Palestinian officials that an Israeli poison plot was behind the phenomenon chiefly affecting Arab school girls. It said laboratory blood tests did not come up with any abnormal findings.

It said that apart from one case of encephalitis and occasional other minor clinical manifestations, hospital laboratory findings established after these outbreaks of ill-defined clusters of symptoms fell within the normal ranges.

The WHO team, which began its inquiry on 4 April following a request by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said it found "no reason whatsoever" to challenge the findings reported to it.

The report recommended, however, that "in view of the anxiety under which the population lives in these occupied territories and given the susceptibility of girls during the stressful transitional period of adolescence, it is the director-general's opinion that everything possible should be done to protect the local population from unnecessary alarm."

Publication of the report during the WHO's annual meeting prompted 42 non-aligned and communist nations to submit a draft resolution expressing "great concern (at) the clinical syndrome which spread among the female students in the West Bank."

Egypt urges acceptance of withdrawal accord

By Philip Finnegan

CAIRO — Egypt has welcomed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon as an important step towards a comprehensive settlement.

"Egypt has received with satisfaction the news regarding the agreement that has been reached between Lebanon and Israel," said a statement by the Egyptian Ministry. "Egypt's belief in development and the imposition of a local control and full sovereignty over Lebanese territories."

Egyptian officials hope that now attention can shift towards achieving a comprehensive peace for the Middle East. As the Foreign Ministry statement notes, the agreement "should strengthen momentum towards achieving a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East that will allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their rights to self-determination within the framework of a just solution to the Palestinian problem." Ministry officials expect that a withdrawal agreement, though belated, will serve as a confidence-building measure encouraging Jordan and the Palestinians to participate in the peace process.

Egyptian policymakers see expanded peace talks as a vindication of their own involvement in



'Hiller diary' source? — This is a photo of the shop of the West German Conrad Kulau-Fischer, who has been accused of smuggling the purported Hitler diaries now proven to be forgeries. The shop is situated in a backyard of Schreierstrasse 22. (AP wirephoto)

Sakharov 'ready to leave' Soviet

MOSCOW (AP) — Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov is ready to leave the Soviet Union but has received no invitations from abroad and is not optimistic that authorities would allow him to go, his wife said on Wednesday.

Austrian government officials announced late last month that Dr. Sakharov would be getting an invitation to teach for one year at the University of Vienna.

"We have received no invitations. We are more isolated now than ever," said Yelena Bonner, Dr. Sakharov's wife, upon her return to Moscow on Wednesday.

She said Dr. Sakharov had not received any invitations to go to the West since he was exiled without trial to the city of Gorky in January 1980.

the peace process, and as a way of furthering their reconciliation with the Arab world.

Indeed during Secretary of State Shultz's trip to Cairo at the beginning of his Middle Eastern shuttle, President Mubarak was already stressing the importance of looking beyond a withdrawal agreement. In his account of the talks, Mr. Mubarak noted that "I told the American administration it was necessary to maintain the role of the PLO in the peace efforts and to refrain from fighting the organization."

Upsetting

Mr. Mubarak's comments, however, concerned several American administration officials, particularly those of the PLO and suggesting that Arab states start looking for other forms of Palestinian representation in any future talks. Particularly upsetting was President Reagan's statement that "Negotiations do not have to hinge on the PLO" because no one has ever elected it. But Mr. Shultz's statement, that Arab states should withdraw their recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people if it does not use its right to negotiate, was also disconcerting.

In spite of this disagreement, the Egyptian government has been extremely pleased with the Shultz mission. Policymakers have been pleased by Mr. Shultz's obvious willingness to stake his personal prestige on obtaining a withdrawal from

UK ready for tough campaign

By Len Rockingham

LONDON — The British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, has called an early general election for 9 June, months before her Conservative government's term of office expires.

Thus comes to an end months of mounting speculation which Mrs. Thatcher has done little to discourage. Indeed, she has added to the speculation in the House of Commons with such telling remarks as her reference to an old song title "Maggie May" — but on the other hand, bludge may not.

Announcing the election date on Monday, the prime minister said that she had to act swiftly in the national interest to bring uncertainty to an end. She implied that further uncertainty would have been damaging to the British economy. Mrs. Thatcher's office also let it be known that after discussing the matter over the weekend with her senior ministers at Chequers, her country house, she still remained unconvinced about an early election date. But once she had made up her mind on Monday morning, she acted quickly with typical resolution.

Enthusiastic conservatives

However, the 9 June date is a surprise, because it will mean that Mrs. Thatcher will have to face the country during the closing stages of the election campaign — first at the world economic summit conference at Williamsburg in America and then at the European Community summit in Stuttgart only two days before the polling date. On the other hand, she obviously believes that 9 June is the date most in her favour.

And she has good reason for the belief. The Conservative Party is geared up and enthusiastic for an election. The economic indicators and opinion polls are both strongly in her favour and the opposition Labour Party is ill prepared for an early election. It has still to select a quarter of its Parliamentary candidates.

The Labour leader, Mr. Michael Foot, has accused Mrs. Thatcher of being "pushed, panicked into an early election." He has also repeated the charge, which will certainly be repeated often throughout the campaign, that she is holding a "cut and run" election, one held out of crest of good economic news which will only be worse as the year advances.

Labour will concentrate its campaign on the unemployment, and on the fact of 3 million workers support from the growing, but still small, nuclear build-up and the handling of the policies of President Reagan. The Conservatives have already ordered the submarine Trident missile system, and will allow American Cruise missiles to be stationed in Britain in the year of this year.

The unknown factor in this election is the likely performance of the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance, which a year ago looked as if it might oust Labour from its position as the main opposition to Mrs. Thatcher. Now the alliance is a poor third in the opinion polls and is trailing a poor third in the local council elections. The best that the alliance can hope to achieve is to hold the balance of power if neither of the main parties wins a clear majority.

Swift and tough

It is going to be a swift, tough and bitter campaign. The parties are well aware of the most issues that have been at the forefront of election, and that includes foreign policy. Labour has promised to take Britain out of the European Community if it wins, and also to renounce all clear weapons. The Conservatives will oppose both of these policies as irresponsible.

The Middle East is not an issue between the parties, although if Mrs. Thatcher wins, the term in office she is thought likely to move the foreign secretary, Mr. Pym, to another post. It will be bad news for Britain's Arab friends. Pym has already begun to make a reputation in Middle East affairs.

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أخبار أسبوعية سياسية، تصدر عن الشركة الإخبارية للصحافة والكتاب في القدس

Amman, 19—25 May 1983

UNRWA cards generate new controversy

By Khader Mansour
Special to the Star

AMMAN — A decision by the UN's Palestine refugee assistance agency to issue new cards to refugees in its care from 1 May has generated a storm of statements and counter statements, with both parties describing the move in sharply conflicting terms.

In interviews this week with The Star, the director in Jordan of UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, a representative of refugees in Jordan, and the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry's under-secretary gave their views on the matter.

UNRWA Director in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist claimed that the measure comes in response to a request by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and stressed that the new cards are not obligatory for refugees. Mr. Tsalal Mohammad Ismail, a member of the committee representing the refugees, took issue and charged that the step is one more attempt by UNRWA to further its alleged plan of doing away with the refugees completely.

Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry Under-Secretary Shawki Mahmoud expressed his own personal full support for the refugee position. He also pointed out that the Jordanian government is trying its hardest to get UNRWA to rescind the measure.

'No obligatory measures'

Mr. Hallqvist told The Star that the measure was taken in implementation of a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly, in response to a pressing request from the PLO.

According to Mr. Hallqvist, the existing cards, valid by registered refugee families since 1950, are strictly registration cards, which entitled them

until October 1982 to UNRWA supplies, education, medical services and welfare. The cards could perhaps entitle them to such assistance in the future, he said, but the supplies and services were suspended in October — in accordance with the General Assembly resolution — due to a lack of funds.

Since then, direct food aid has been provided only for hardship cases, of which there are 12,000 registered in Jordan.

The refugees consider the existing cards as ration cards; but Mr. Hallqvist said that their re-

Continued on page 24

Agreement provokes strong opposition on both sides

Star Staff Writer

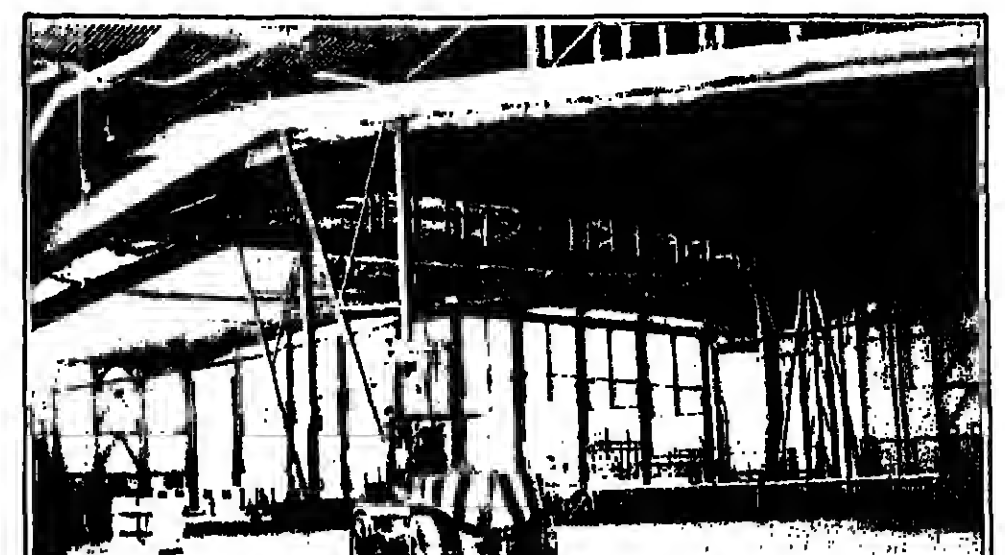
AMMAN — Despite the signing of the agreement there is still strong opposition inside Israel — between the rightists and leftists.

The militant right represented by Gula Cohen, Hayim Drokman, Hanan Porat, Amnon Lin, Yuval Nisman, and Ben Shalev in addition to other political figures claim that Israel was hasty in signing the agreement.

The militant right says that the agreement does not differ from the truce signed in 1948 and that it constitutes a severe blow to the actual Israeli claims in Lebanon, as proclaimed at the beginning of the war.

Gula Cohen remarked: "I strongly oppose the agreement. Begin has enumerated many goals but nothing was achieved from this war."

"The signing of the agreement was a day of mourning because Israel lost a great deal and achieved nothing," said Hayim Drokman, MP for Mirad.



FINAL POLISH: The maintenance hangar of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline gets its finishing touches as the new Queen Alia International Airport is poised to go into full operations. "This hangar can hold a 747 and two TriStars simultaneously," said Maintenance Director Khalil Saoud. "The total area of the engineering department is 24,000 sq. m., with full, modern equipment which can service any passenger aircraft." "The first flight is due to land at the airport at 3 o'clock on 26 May. After that, all arrivals and departures to and from Amman will use the new airport complex, which is equipped with some of the most modern technology in the world. (Photo by Triela Weir)

IN BRIEF

• A ROUND-TABLE discussion will be held in Amman in September, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, for men of thought from Jordan and Austria to discuss matters of interest to both countries. A number of prominent Austrians including Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the former UN secretary general, will attend. This meeting is organised by the Jordanian-Austrian Friendship Society under Public Works Minister Awni Al-Masri.

• TELEVISION FEES will rise to JD 1 per month from 1 June 1983. The fee will be added to the monthly electricity bill. The fee at present is JD 0.500.

• A ROYAL decree has been issued approving a loan agreement with the World Bank for \$37 million to be used in implementing water projects. Another loan was also approved, from the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, for the amount of KD 3.5 million to finance agricultural credit projects in the Jordan valley.

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Aqaba plant project builds up steam

By Steven Ross
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The last major contract in the multimillion-dollar Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) project will be awarded within three weeks, a Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) spokesman says.

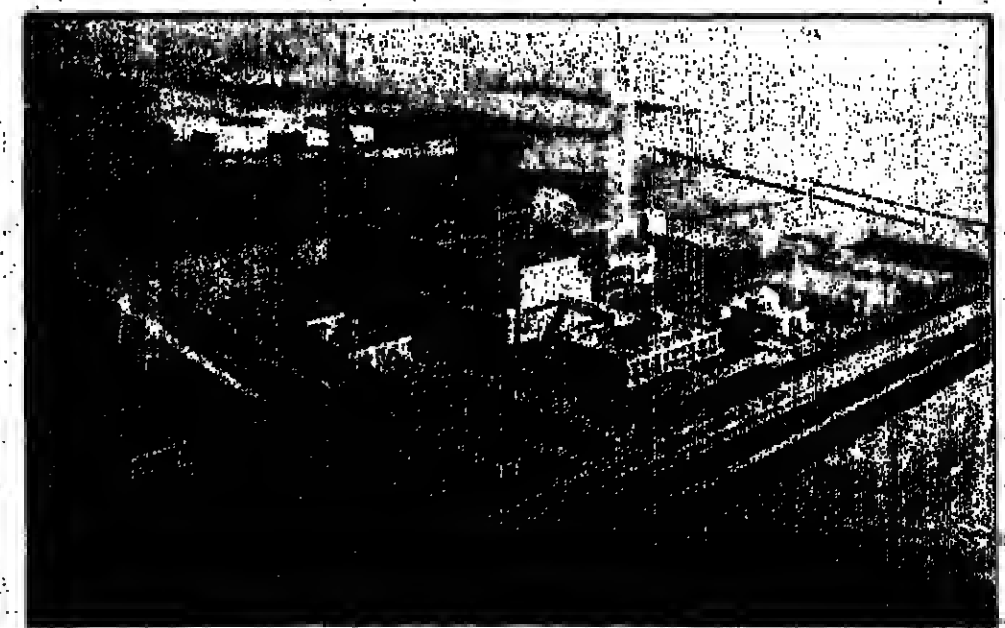
Mr. Abdel Wahab Zubi, the project manager for the huge new station, told The Star in an interview that one of five major construction jobs — the civil works contract — remained to be awarded. The other four contracts, for supply and installation of equipment, were awarded to international firms earlier this year.

Meanwhile, a royal decree was issued this week approving a loan agreement with the Opec Fund for International Development, for \$10 million to finance part of the plant's construction costs.

1,540 megawatts

The overall cost of the project's first phase is estimated at JD 65-70 million. The seawater-cooled plant at a site 19 kilometres south of Aqaba will, by the end of the century, produce 1,540 megawatts of power from three 130-MW and four 320-MW generators. Power will be transmitted to Amman on a 400-kilovolt double circuit transmission line.

On the four equipment supply jobs, Mr. Zubi said the Italian firm Franco Tosi had a contract



Artistic conception of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station south of Aqaba (Chos. T. Maib)

worth about JD 27.7 million for the turbine island, and one worth approximately JD 20 million for the boiler island had gone to a consortium of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi Heavy Industry. BBC Brown Boveri of Mann-

Continued on page 5

• NEW YORK — A faint, old comet that looked like a fuzzy blob of light to many sky watchers whizzed by earth on Wednesday at a distance of 4.7 million kilometres — the closest any comet has come since 1770.

• JOHANNESBURG — The ruling National Party won two special parliamentary elections but lost a third to a far-right party opposed to a plan to admit Indian and mixed-race minorities into parliament. Prime Minister P.W. Botha narrowly fended off a stiff right-wing challenge in the critical southernmost district.

• MADRID — The national court on Wednesday approved a request from the Mother

lands to extradite Jaume Bert Pallas, a Dutch-born Nazi wanted for his collaboration with Germany in World War Two, aid to the enemy and torture.

• COMO, Italy — Davide Berliati, the former resistance fighter who blocked Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini's escape from Italy in 1945, died in this Italian town near Milan at age 88. No newspaper reports said on Wednesday.

• KATMANDU — Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide a low interest loan of \$30.72 million to Nepal for the Himalayan Kingdom's ambitious East-West highway project.

• CAULIARI, Sardinia — A Red Brigades terrorist turned police informer claims that the Palestine Liberation Organization had maintained a secret arms warehouse in Sardinia.

• ANTONIO SAVASTA, a former leader of the left-wing urban guerrilla group, told a local court on Monday that the Red Brigades looked after the PLO arsenal on Mount Pizzini that included bazookas, ground-to-air missiles, machine guns, explosives and light weapons.

• PARIS — US Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said on Wednesday that high interest rates are keeping the dollar unusually strong. He said he would welcome a continuation of the recent trend towards lower interest rates.

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King expresses his concern to Reagan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan this week handed President Ronald Reagan a message from His Majesty King Hussein expressing "concern" over the situation in Lebanon.

Crown Prince Hassan said after the meeting at the White House, that a solution in Lebanon must be coupled with talks on Jerusalem, the occupied territories and the future of the Palestinians.

He reiterated Jordan's support for Lebanon and for the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty over all its territory, and said that he was encouraged by Mr. Reagan's reaffirmation of his "personal resolve" in the search for a Middle East peace.

On Syria's outright rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli accord on the

withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, Prince Hassan said he hoped an agreement between Syria and Lebanon on a withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon was "just a question of time."

He said that Jordan hoped Syrian "awareness of UN resolutions" from which they benefited in the past, and the role of the superpowers in the region, would "minimise the possibilities of confrontation."

Crown Prince Hassan played down Soviet reinforcement of Syria. He said Soviet SAM-5 missiles were there for Syria's own protection and did not mean "the possibility of a wider conflict in the Middle East."

The White House reiterated "concern" over the increased presence of Soviet troops in the area, which it said "cannot help the peace process."

Prince Hassan said the situation in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley was "very tense indeed," adding that he hoped the "primary interest" of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the "future of the Palestinian people not only in Lebanon but also in the occupied territories."

Professional women visit counterparts in the valley



Women workers at the Arda vegetable sorting centre

AMMAN (Star) — A group of members of the Club of Professional Women last Saturday toured the Jordan Valley. They visited Karameh, Karamah, Deir Alla and Mawaddi in an attempt to keep abreast of the activities of rural women.

The trip also took the club members to centres and farms employing women, the vegetable sorting and grading centre and nurseries. At the end of the tour a member held a dialogue with working women and housewives, covering general problems con-

fronting the working woman, mainly in agriculture.

Club President Hind Abdul Jabbar spoke about possibilities for co-operation between the club and rural women's organisations in the efforts to increase women's earning power. The possibility of holding charity bazaar to display handicrafts by rural women was also discussed.

The trip by club members was one of a group of planned visits to the workplaces of rural women to help them improve their economic and social status.

From Jordan's universities

U. OF JORDAN

• SIX PROMINENT figures of the University Theatre are acting in a new TV series, "Tarabih Al-Abed", on Jordan Television. They include Sadik Farash.

• DR. ABDUL QADER SHAHIN, of the university has written a new book, published by Dar Al-Fikr in Amman. The book is entitled "The Development of the Student's Scientific Level." In it the author enumerates methods and means with which to evaluate students' advancement.

• A THREE-DAY photographic exhibition was opened on 15 May by the rector of the university, Dr. Al-Haydar Al-Najjar. The exhibition contained 85 paintings selected by teachers and students. The exhibition was organized by the Arts and Music Institute, established in 1982 at the university.

• AN EXHIBITION of ideological education by scientific councils and research centres in the Arab world ends at the University of Jordan on Thursday, 19 May. It contains publications and books representing the Arabic and Islamic heritage, various scientific magazines, and scientific achievements by Arab academic organizations.

The exhibition is meant to inform university teachers and students about the achievements of 30 scientific organizations in the Arab world. They include the Society of Islamic Studies and Research, the Royal Scientific Society and the Jordanian Libraries Society from Jordan. Saudi Arabia is represented by King Abdul Aziz Institute of the Islamic League and the Islamic Heritage Research Centre. From Tunisia is the National Institute of Arts and Antiquities, and from Sudan the University of Khartoum. Other countries include Syria: Arab Scientific Institute, Aleppo University, French Institute for Arab Studies, Iraq: Arab Ministry, Oman: Omani Heritage Directorate, Qatar: Dar Al-Kutub, Kuwait: National Council for Culture and Arts, Lebanon: Arab Unity Studies Centre, The French Institute for Antiquities, The Palestinian Studies Institute, Libya: the Centre of Libyan Struggle against Italian Colonisation, and Egypt: the Astrological and Geophysical Institute.

• THE YARMOUK Fine Arts Department will hold its fourth exhibition from 23 — 31 May in Al-Kindi building.

• DR. MOHAMMAD Abdul Khabir Allam, vice-president of the American University of Cairo, will visit the University on 24 May.

• STUDENTS HELD a charity bazaar on 12 May in the girls' hostel to raise money for handicapped students.

jordan

JD 85m port to be unveiled on Thursday

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to the Star

AMMAN — Alla, the Royal Jordanian Airline this week flew three test flights to the new Queen Alla International Airport in preparation for its opening on 25 May, a spokesman said. The flight took six minutes.

The airport's inaugural ceremony, under His Majesty King Hussein's patronage, will coincide with Independence and Arity Day.

The King will deliver a speech on this occasion. The ceremony will be attended by several Arab ministers of communications and transport, together with directors of civil aviation from Arab countries using the airport, representatives of international aviation organizations and agencies, the oil freight Institute, US Federal Aviation Administration, British Aviation Authority and the Arab Air Transport Union.

Minister of Transport Ali Suhaimat told The Star the airport's construction cost JD 85 million. He will explain the project's history at the ceremony, where King Hussein will also award medals to a number of people who contributed to the project, and will unveil a memorial plaque.

Taxi fares set

The Star learned that taxi fares for the 30-kilometre distance from Amman to the airport or back have been fixed at JD 4.500. The bus ride will cost JD 0.500. The new airport is supposed to go into full operations as of 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, 26 May, when Alla flight number 303 arrives from Aqaba. At the same time, the last flight from the old Amman International Airport — to Aqaba at 3 p.m. — is also planned to take place on Thursday.

The old Amman airport in Morka, after being used for civil aviation purposes, will be used for training by the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Queen Nour Civil Aviation Institute.

The new airport has two 3,660-metre runways, each 61 metres wide with a distance between of 1,525 metres. It was designed to serve 2.5 million passengers a year, with the possibility of increasing

this capability to 6-8 million passengers in the year 2000.

Arrival and departure terminals are located in twin three-storey buildings, with a total area of 31,000 square metres. There is space for 450,000 tonnes a year of cargo in the private hangars.

Egyptian workers

In the light of the huge number of people constantly leaving for Egypt after working in Jordan, arrangements have been made to facilitate their travel. These travellers will gather at the old airport, where their papers will be processed, their luggage weighed and sent directly to waiting planes at Queen Alla Airport. The Egyptian passengers themselves will be transported to the new site by bus. This arrangement, it is hoped, will prevent overcrowding.

Minister Suhaimat said that the airport will need about 2,000 cubic metres of water a day. There is one water reservoir to feed the airport buildings, and another one to support the fire-fighting system, with a capacity of 14,000 cubic metres. "There is another 'city' under the airport containing wells, water and fuel pipes, electricity and telephone cables, sewerage, drainage pipes and networks for cooling and heating," he said.

Maintenance hangar

For the first time in Jordan, aircraft can now be maintained in a special hangar, built at a cost of JD 5.5 million. One of Alla's planes was repaired there recently and another will go in for maintenance soon. A total of \$1.5 million will be saved by down maintenance work done on the two jets within Jordan.

The three floors of the terminal buildings contain all facilities and equipment that is found at the most modern airports, including "Skyway" boarding gates allowing passengers to walk onto planes directly from the terminal.

There are also the royal chamber, air traffic control offices, fire squad, communications equipment, water supply network, catering facilities, and the airport hotel, still under construction. The airport is reached by a dual carriage way, limited access highway that leads to the Seventh and Eighth circles in Amman.



Princess Wijdan and committee members view submissions to the airport decoration project (Peiza photo)

Art is selected for opening ceremony

AMMAN (Star) — Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, working with the pavilion committee supervising arrangements for the opening of Queen Alla International Airport under Transport Ministry Under-Secretary Hashem Al-Tajer, has selected a number of paintings by Jordanian artists to be displayed in the halls of the airport during the 25 May inaugural ceremony.

This is the first step in the Ministry of Transport's programme for internal decoration of the airport. The second step will be to invite a number of artists to paint murals for the walls of the airport halls. The paintings were gathered at the Alla Art Gallery for review. Princess Wijdan was accompanied by the director of tourism, Mr. Balla Al-Luhun, National Consultative Council member Sami Al-Zaru and members of the pavilion committee, including Mr. Agel Bilalji, Dr. Hamed Sabel, Mr. Ahmad-Hamid Al-Kabarti and a number of Jordanian artists.

Visiting economist stresses diversification

By Steven Ross
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan needs to exert a sustained effort to diversify its industrial exports and other sources of foreign exchange, a top British economist says.

Mr. David Ashby, group chief economist for Grindlays Bank, who visited Jordan this week, says the country's reliance on exports of phosphates, potash and other mineral products is risky because it is subject to the vagaries of the international market.

Mr. Ashby lectured on Monday evening at the Amman Chamber of Industry on the world economic situation and its relevance to Jordan. In an interview with The Star, he said that excessive concern about the future level of foreign development assistance to Jordan was not called for. Arab oil-producing countries can be expected to decrease their aid flows, but he does not expect them to dry up.

Asked about the effect of forecasts of world economy recovery on Jordan and other developing countries, Mr. Ashby said that for the next few months "there probably isn't going to

be very much direct impact on those commodity-exporting countries. In many cases, the level of commodity prices has already begun to respond — or to anticipate further strengthening of the economic recovery — so in that area they can begin to see something happening. But really, it won't be until the end of this year, or early 1984, that most of these exporters begin to feel the benefit of the recovery."

Jordan has suffered from the weakness of the market for phosphates, he said, and "a significant strengthening of demand in that area" won't be seen immediately. "And even then it's still a very competitive market," Mr. Ashby said.

He emphasized that mineral export is a very competitive field, and "it's

very important to keep prices in line with international costs."

Reduced aid inflow

Asked about prospects for future financial support from other Arab countries, Mr. Ashby agreed that this was a major concern. But, he said, "you're really getting into the area there of what is going to happen to oil prices, and oil (export) volumes, and how are countries like Saudi Arabia going to react to that. To me, it's pretty clear that Jordan has got to plan on receiving a reduced inflow of financial assistance from those countries."

"I don't see it drying up entirely because the political reasons for maintaining the flow are still there, just as strong as ever."

He said, "It's easy to exaggerate the impact of the decline in oil prices and oil revenues on places like Saudi Arabia, which have absolutely massive financial resources...if they were to stop exporting oil entirely, that would not bring their economy to its knees necessarily, immediately, because they have so much invested abroad that they can draw on."

"So while it's right to be concerned about the flow of these resources, I think it's wrong to take a really extreme alarmist view and say that Jordan is not going to get anything in the future."

"Having said that, if I were in Jordan's position I would be very anxious indeed to reduce my dependence on this outside assistance, and would be seeking to diversify my economy and make it more self-sufficient."

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jordan

A fun and fascinating festival

Words and pictures
By Tricia Weir
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Celebrations of Jordan's International Week began at a crackling pace as 2,000 people gathered last Friday at the International Jordanian Festival held at the American Community School.

A 10-kilometre marathon race was the first event, in which 60 runners took part in the crack of dawn. But music and dancing were the order of the day and despite cloudy weather, more than 32 nationalities were enthusiastically represented in open-air presentations of tradition and culture.

From the sand-bottle artist and stone carver of Jordan to the delicacies of Indian food, families spent the day wandering around the spacious field in



Delightful dancing by the Filipino dance group, with the girls in crisp, white dresses

buy craft items or listen to the infinite variety of music.

The hedonist tent attracted many visitors who enjoyed coffee which was in endless supply. A breathtaking nebula display was one of the highlights and the enjoyment was heightened

when the three Royal Jordanian Falcons pilots descended to earth to meet the guests.

Two major philanthropic organizations were also represented. Unicef and UNRWA tempted shoppers with many interesting craft items. Pales-



The Jordanian Army Band opens the International Jordanian Festival with a selection of marching music

tinian art had its corner too, as disabled artist Adnan Al-Helou, a victim of meningitis, exhibited his colourful work.

Proceeds from the festival, which were expected to top the JD 2,000 mark, are to be contributed to the

building of a new gymnasium at the ACS planned for next summer.

- Marathon winners on page 2
- Kid's picture on page 17
- Full story and more pictures last week's Jerusalem Star.

US study group due

From Our Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Dr. Alan R. Taylor of the School of International Service at American University in Washington will head a group of 16 graduate and undergraduate students who will begin a study tour of Jordan on Saturday 22 May in the context of a special course on the dynamics of inter-Arab politics.

The group will stay in Amman until 3 June. After that they will go to Cairo and will remain there until 14 June. While in Jordan the group will be meeting with Jordanian officials, and there is a possibility that they will have an audience with His Majesty King Hussein. According to Dr. Taylor, meetings with Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasbi, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid bin Shaker and members of the academic community will take place.

While in Egypt the group will meet with Egyptian officials and will visit their colleagues at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Taylor told The Star that this is the fourth time American University has undertaken such a trip. It began thinking them in 1980.



AMMAN (Star) — The Regional Director of Alltalla, the Italian national air carrier in Amman, Dr. Bruno Nassini, played host this week to the director of production and the commercial director of Alltalla in the Middle East and North Africa, Messrs Benfriani and Bogni. The meeting was also attended by a number of Alltalla area representatives in neighbouring Arab countries. The airline officers discussed the future plans of Alltalla in the Middle East.

'State of the art' books displayed

AMMAN (Star) — An English language education exhibition opened last Saturday by Minister of Education Said Al-Tal contains about 400 books, all of them produced during the last three years. They constitute a representative sample of the best books currently available for English language teaching.

There are books on applied linguistics, teacher training and methodology, but the majority are textbooks.

There are general, supplementary and specialised English teaching books are accompanied by audio and video materials and a demonstration teaching cassette.

Three lectures on English language teaching were arranged to coincide with the exhibition. British Council Assistant Representative John McGovern spoke on how to select the right text book, in the first lecture. Mr. McGovern, who is also director of the teaching centre, spoke again on Monday, on Current Trends in English Language Teaching; and the third lecture was given on Wednesday, on English for Specific Purposes, by Mr. Crocker, the English Language adviser at the University of Jordan.

Traffic casualties condemned

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The increasingly horrendous traffic situation in Jordan and its anonymous casualty toll were the ob-

jects of concern at a ceremony held last week to observe International Traffic Day.

The ceremony, attended by several government ministers, police and security officials along with other people concerned with road safety, was held at the Palace of Culture in Al-Hussein Youth City. It faced a situation in which, according to one speaker, traffic accident casualties are more numerous than those caused by war and disease combined.

A pamphlet distributed on the occasion by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents reported that 1,389 people died on the road in the period 1981-82, and 24,653 people were injured. Those casualties occurred in 41,163 accidents over the same period.

Interior Minister Ahmad Ubaidat, during the ceremony, distributed awards to drivers who had clean records, some of them dating back as far as 1929, to police, army and Civil Defence officers, and to injured accident victims whose plight is symbolic of the serious situation. Employees of Jordan Television and Radio Jordan were also recognised for their contribution to road safety campaigns.

Col. Ahmad Al-Dmour, assistant director of the Traffic Department, said in an interview with The Star that the

ceremony was one of a number of recommendations proposed by the Road Accident Society. Other activities have included television panel discussions in which the speakers urged the people to take care for their own lives and those of others. Another seminar was held in the Traffic Department, in which speakers talked about road accidents and the need to reduce accidents, damages and casualties.

Col. Dmour said that many accidents are due to wrong overtaking, reckless driving, negligence and loss of control of the vehicle. But by far the most notable culprit is exceeding the speed limit.

On the new traffic law now under consideration, Col. Dmour said he thinks it will be welcomed by both the public and traffic officials. "Any traffic violation will have an end and the law will be applied strictly," he said. "The law will attempt to modify driver behaviour."

The traffic regulations are not directed against any particular group of drivers, but to save souls, he said. Cars should be used only to attain the necessary needs of people — not for competition.

"If a person is punished for violating the law he is not to blame the Traffic Department but to realise that he is at fault and must avoid this behaviour."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET REPORT

Bank dealing stays high

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

THIS WEEK was one working day shorter than last, but a high demand for bank stock kept that sector in the top position regarding share of all business.

During the week from 11-16 May about 1.3 million shares changed hands, at a market value of JD 3.235 million divided among 1,500 contracts: an increase of 14.6 per cent after adjusting for the shorter week.

Average daily came to JD 800,000, with a deviation from the average of 49.4 per cent or 12.4 per cent of the total handling. The high deviation was caused by one big deal involving the shares of Jordan-Kuwait Bank on Wednesday, 11 May whose value exceeded JD 1 million.

The banks sector occupied 74.2 per cent of the market, an increase of 31.4 points compared to last week. Five out of 15 banks occupied 90.2 per cent of the sector or 67 per cent of the total. Jordan-Kuwait Bank accounted for 49.5 per cent of the sector or 36.7 per cent of the total. It was followed by Jordan-Gulf Bank with 14.5/10.8 per cent; Jordan National Bank 13.4/10 per cent; Jordan Securities Corporation 7.1/5.3 per cent, and the Islamic Investment House, 5.7/4.2 per cent.

The industry sector occupied 14.2 per cent of total handling, a decrease of five points. Four out of 25 companies occupied 63.1 per cent of the sector or 8.9 per cent of the total, led by Jordan Petroleum Refinery with 20.4/2.9 per cent, National Steel Industry had 19.9/2.8 per cent; South Cement 11.5/1.6 per cent and National Industries 11.3/1.6 per cent.

Services accounted for 8.9 per cent of the total handling, 1.1 points more than last week. Three out of nine companies occupied 78.9 per cent of the sector or 7 per cent of the total. International Contracting and Investments had 37.4/3.3 per cent; National General Investments 25.3/2.3 per cent, and Arab Company for International Investment and Trading 16.2/1.4 per cent.

The insurance sector occupied 2.7 per cent of total handling, a decrease of 27.5 points. Two out of 12 companies occupied 46.5 per cent of the sector or 1.3 per cent of total handling. Jordan-French Insurance had 25.8/0.7 per cent and Universal Insurance 20.7/0.6 per cent.

The stock of 61 companies was handled during this week. Fifteen of them showed price increases including Arab Union Insurance, closing at JD 1.850 up from JD 1.650, Jordan Worst Mills at JD 3.250 up from JD 3.000 and Jordan National Shipping Lines at JD 2.010 up from JD 1.960.

Thirty-seven companies showed price decreases, including Arab Development and Investments closing at JD 3.400 down from JD 3.950, Al-Quds Insurance at JD 2.550 down from JD 2.720, Jordan Tanning Company at JD 1.800 down from JD 1.900, Jordan Pipes Manufacturing at JD 1.340 down from JD 1.400 and Jordan National Bank at JD 4.150 down from JD 4.320.

Nine companies had no price change.

The record figure showed a drop of 1.2 per cent; hesitation reached 0.9 per cent, a comparatively figure. In the over-the-counter market about 730,000 shares were handled, at a market value of more than JD 653,000.

The weekly record

Companies showing a share price increase	Companies with a price decrease	The mean record figure
Arab Union Insurance	Arab Development and Investments	Arab Union Insurance
Jordan Worst Mills	Al-Quds Insurance	Jordan Worst Mills
Jordan National Shipping Lines	Jordan Tanning Company	Jordan National Shipping Lines
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	Jordan National Bank	Jordan Pipes Manufacturing
Arab Union Insurance	Arab Development and Investments	Arab Union Insurance
Jordan Worst Mills	Al-Quds Insurance	Jordan Worst Mills
Jordan National Shipping Lines	Jordan Tanning Company	Jordan National Shipping Lines
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	Jordan National Bank	Jordan Pipes Manufacturing

Nenaraca seeks to improve farm production, income

By Abdul Majeed Tahrir
Special to the Star

AMMAN — The average income of agricultural workers in the Middle East and North Africa is around 40 per cent of that of workers in other sectors, a recent study says. Small farmers, who account for the vast majority of agricultural production in the region, have incomes even lower than that average.

Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah, secretary general of Amman-based Near East and North Africa Region Agriculture Credit Association (Nenaraca), told The Star in an interview that these economic facts constitute the main obstacle to attempts to develop agriculture. In these circumstances, he said, the agricultural sector will continue to lose manpower. It will also be unable to provide economic incentives for investment, and chances for growth will remain very weak.

The Nenaraca board, at its eighth meeting in Amman recently, considered these problems among others, and will hold a conference in 1984 to discuss small farmers. The role of agricultural credit institutions in solving these problems is the association's main concern. It is associated with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for which Mr. Abdullah is a credit marketing co-operative officer.

Living standard growth

Agriculture policies, he said, should ensure increases in the living standard of farmers to make it comparable to that of other workers in any particular country. "This can be achieved through providing farmers with integrated basic services such as agricultural input, supplies, credit marketing and proper extension guidance based upon the results of advanced scientific applied research, which would allow the introduction and application of modern farming methods and practices."

Pricing and production also need to be adjusted, Mr. Abdullah said.

At its meeting here, the board discussed Nenaraca's own finances, and decided its resources need to be increased. Membership dues are to be raised to \$1,500 a year from the beginning of 1984, and the richer member states will be asked to contribute cash or in kind assistance. Some of the association's publications will start being sold on a commercial basis; and Nenaraca plans to approach the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Development Bank and other regional development funds for help. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has already responded positively to a request.

Loans to Jordan

During the last few months, Arab countries and international financing agencies have signed several loan agreements, which will be used to extend concessional credit (soft loans) to farmers in those countries. IFAD is lending \$10.6 million to the Jordan Co-operative Organization for financial assistance to farmers in rainfed agricultural areas; and the same agency joined with the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) in lending \$20 million to Jordan's Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC). This money will

be used in helping Jordan Valley farmers install new protected and drip irrigation systems, especially in the southern valley.

In Sudan, the World Bank is lending \$35 million to the Agricultural Bank of Sudan, which will in turn extend loans to small farmers in two northern and one western province. The African Development Fund is lending \$9 million for the same purpose.

Other Arab countries that are now experimenting with financial and material assistance to their small farmers are the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), Algeria and Oman. South Yemen's State Organization for Agricultural Services is at-

tached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. It provides various kinds of support including machinery to farmers, agricultural co-operatives, collectives and state farms.

In Algeria, a specialised bank for agriculture and rural development has recently been established to channel money into the hands of farmers. Oman has a specialised institutional agricultural credit agency, the newly established Oman Bank for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Nenaraca started a two-week course for 25 agricultural credit officers in Amman on 7 May. The aim is to unify agricultural credit policies throughout the Arab world.

Full range of computer services on display

AMMAN (Star) — Arab Computers and Management Services Company (ACMSC) held a computer exhibition at the Holiday Inn Hotel on 15 and 16 May. The exhibition highlighted new services, which ACMSC, under the direction of its President Ali Hachem Nazzari, provides, that are specifically developed to solve the business problems unique to Arab companies.

The models displayed were from the international Pertie and Commodore lines, and ranged from the inexpensive home computer to the large PCC-1000 all-inclusive business computer system.

The programmes on these machines are written to print both Arabic

and English, which satisfies the dual-language character of the Jordanian business community.

ACMSC's main service is not in selling computers, but in helping a business learn how to use them. The company takes a new client through all the confusing beginning processes, but unlike other companies based overseas they continue to teach the client how to fully utilize their computer.

Mr. Ghassan Jawhar, managing director of ACMSC, said that he felt computers have not been taken seriously enough in Amman. "Too many people have degraded them to just game playing machines," he said, "while they should most importantly be for solving business problems."

Aqaba power station jobs go to international firms

continued from page 1

The contractors have now started working on the design of their respective portions. The first 130-MW unit is to be commissioned after 38 months, and the second one after 42 months.

JEA originally received 11 proposals from international firms for the civil works contract, which comprises construction of all the plant's major buildings, roads and infrastructure as well as laying huge pipes to the sea, more than one kilometre away, for the seawater. It was reported earlier this year that South Korea's Samwhan Corporation was about to be chosen for the job; but JEA decided to scale down the work and seek new bids from the tenderers. The new closing date is 19 May.

Environmental studies

Two glass fibre pipes, each of them 1.5 metres across, will bring 36,000 cubic metres of water per hour to the plant. After cooling the generators, the water will return to the ocean via one two-metre discharge pipe.

Asked what measures had been taken to assess and deal with environmental impact, Mr. Zubi said two studies had been conducted: a site survey by the Jordanian Mohammad Abdul Rahim Jandani engineering firm and a marine study by the US Ocean Survey. To protect coral and other aquatic life in the Gulf of Aqaba, steps will be taken to keep the increase in seawater temperature down to one degree Celsius.

This will be done by the use of a

special nozzle on the water outlet, which will be located 200 metres from shore in 30-metre-deep water. The nozzle will diffuse the used cooling water, which leaves the plant 10 degrees warmer than it went in.

The ATPS project is receiving support from a broad spectrum of international financing agencies, and \$144 million was pledged at a meeting in Amman last June. It grouped the national aid funds of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and West Germany, as well as representatives of Italy, France and the UK. Other participants included the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the Opec Fund for International Development.

The switchyard contract is supported by a soft loan of DM 9.5 million from West Germany's Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW). The boiler and turbine contracts have suppliers' credit from Japan and Italy respectively, with the rest of the cost being supported by KFAED, AFESD and the Opec Fund. The fuel oil island is financed by a South Korean supplier's credit.

Consulting engineers for the power plant design are the US' Chas. T. Main International. The transmission line to Amman has been designed by the UK's Procter, Cardew and Rider. The power line erection, which is divided into four contracts, is under separate authority, but Mr. Zubi said contractors for those jobs are expected to be chosen within one month.

Tanzania smokes out its hoarders



By Richard Hall

LONDON (ONS) — Frightened Asians in Tanzania are burning secret caches of banknotes for fear of being arrested and jailed in the country's government-led campaign against "economic saboteurs".

The hunt for black marketeers and currency hoarders is being accompanied by mass rallies and a powerfully orchestrated campaign throughout the official media. Although the 60,000-strong Asian community is not being officially identified as the prime target, its shopkeepers dominate retail trade.

Extra teeth are being given to the actions of police and

party activists by an emergency bill introduced into the Tanzanian parliament. It is to be made retroactive to 25 March, when the campaign was launched with the full backing of President Julius Nyerere.

The mood of public hostility towards "economic saboteurs" was heightened earlier this month when Mr. Nyerere addressed a vast crowd which had marched to State House, Dar es Salaam. He warned racketeers that "their days were numbered."

The country's borders have been closed to intensify the hunt and roundups are also being made in the island of Zanzibar. In house-to-house searches foreign currency has been found hidden under beds and in attics. The owners have been immediately taken off to jail.

Virtually all the Asians still in Tanzania have given up the British passports they had in colonial times for local citizenship. Even if they are able to leave the country, they will have no right of entry to Britain.

In the central Tanzanian town of Dodoma recently, Prime Minister Edward Sogomo gave a reward of \$10,000 to a police officer for refusing a bribe of a like amount from an unnamed businessman during the local anti-racketeer sweep. The presentation was made before a 50,000-strong rally.

Thirty-five businessmen have been arrested in Dodoma itself and large amounts of property seized. Far more arrests have been made in Dar es Salaam, although numbers have yet to be disclosed.

The hoards of goods discovered have been described by government officials as "like Aladdin's caves". It has long been recognized in Tanzania that if you need some basic item, such as battery or a razor blade, an Asian trader will be the only likely source.

The campaign comes three months after an attempted coup against Mr. Nyerere, and at a time of worsening economic crisis. It clearly serves to deflect public discontent and to lay the blame for shortages on the "saboteurs".

Mr. Nyerere has warned all hoarders of banknotes, whether local or foreign, to hand them in. He said they would be leniently dealt with. But anyone who "dumps" goods of money in panic faces severe punishment.

Under the new law, black marketeers and "economic saboteurs" will be liable for up to five years in jail. All property seized will be sold off for the benefit of the state.

Goods already collected are being sold to "improve national institutions", including the army. The government is clearly anxious that enthusiasm for expropriated property should be getting out of hand. It has called for the setting up of committees for the "recovery and care" of goods.

Many of the Asians in Tanzania are Ismaili Muslims, followers of Aga Khan. According to a statement by Minister of Natural Resources, George Kahama, the Aga Khan has promised to help the country's "economic and social welfare". But his gestures may be inadequate to halt the present witch-hunt.

Confusion over cause of oil slick in the Gulf

By Iraj Ispahani

WAS THERE ever a giant oil slick in the Arabian Gulf? Conflicting reports on the severity of the situation have been emerging. Recently, "Time" Magazine ran a story about the dangers to the Gulf region of "a 250-mile long slick", which, they said, "has spread from the northern tip of the Gulf". The "Pakistan and Gulf Economist" even produced a cover story highlighting the economic and ecological threat to the Gulf states' shoreline if action was not taken to bring the oil slick under control quickly.

The Nowruz oil field, near the northern point of the Gulf, is about 50 kilometres from the coast of Iran. The closing of this oil field two and a half years ago coincided with the start of the Iran/Iraq war and was thought to have stemmed when Iranian oil fields were bombed in March by Iraqi pilots in retaliation to a massive Iranian attack on Iraq's border positions earlier in the month. But the idea that the spillage, whatever its extent, was caused by war damage, is a misconception. Though the Nowruz well is still on fire, there is no sign that the oil from it is leaking into the sea. Another Iranian well, damaged in 1981, when a ship collided with a platform, is responsible for what little oil flowing in the Gulf. The collapse of this platform in February resulted in broken casing from which the oil started to escape.

Misinterpretation

It was originally feared that 7,000 barrels of crude per day were flowing out of the Nowruz field into the warm Gulf waters. But according to latest reports, the giant oil slick cannot be traced. The scare story seems to have sprung, in the main, from a misinterpretation of satellite photographs which are unable to distinguish between oil slick and oil sheen. Though slick presents serious problems, sheen is so more than 0.0003 millimetres thick, and thus presents no grave threat.

Experts now believe that over the last three months, the troublesome Iranian well has been leaking about 2,000 barrels of oil or about 300 tonnes a day into the Gulf, which in all is not even 100,000 tonnes.

Seeing to mind the size of the Gulf, and the time over which the oil has been dispersed, the situation appears to be a manageable one, as opposed to the acute crisis which some observers initially perceived. The Gulf drama is placed in a clearer perspective if it is compared with other similar situations. When the supertanker, Amoco Cadiz, dumped 230,000 tonnes of crude on the French coast in March 1978, her spillage polluted 320 kilometres of the Brittany shoreline. Likewise, the IXTOC blow-out in 1979 spewed 300,000 tonnes of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Encouragingly, experts feel that the threat of major oil shortage, unaided by the current rate of spillage. Thirty per cent of the oil is said to be evaporated and most of the remainder is being picked up by wind-driven waves, action which leaves the patches of oil and sheen which have been washed up on the shoreline. The patches of oil and sheen which have been washed up on the shoreline of nature's clearing-up action. Though this is hopeful, there is some uncertainty about the extent of the problem. It is feared that the oil may be heavily polluted and that the moment the north-eastern winds and strong water currents blow from the south-east,

would tend to keep any slick on the Iranian side of the Gulf. But what will happen when the winds change direction?

It is clear that Gulf state leaders cannot afford to be complacent in dealing with the oil slick problem. Workmen have been rapidly building plastic booms to keep oil away from the shoreline. Gulf leaders have been urgently pressing Iran and Iraq to at least agree to a temporary ceasefire, thereby allowing American technicians to cap the wells. But the warring states have flatly refused to compromise, and recent escalation in fighting has ruled out any hope of it.

It has been suggested that the lower-Gulf states hope that worldwide concern over the oil slick dilemma would bring Iran and Iraq to the negotiation table. Whilst heading a meeting of the Gulf states, Kuwait tried

to use the crisis to put an end to the war but these deliberations were fruitless. The outcry over the slicks, it seems, was more a case of politicking than pollution. Iran, having gained the upper hand militarily, left Iraq apparently prepared for a temporary ceasefire in the hope that the United Nations would then intervene and the war could be resolved by negotiations. But Iran insists that any break in hostilities must be for the sole purpose of giving time for the well-capping to be completed. On no condition will Iran tolerate UN mediation in the war.

For the moment, "Red Adair's" trouble-shooting American team have returned to the US with their well caps in hand after eleven futile days in the Gulf. Hopefully, they will have a chance to return soon.

(South/Third World Media)



Patches of the slick on the coast of Qatar

NEW YORK NEW YORK

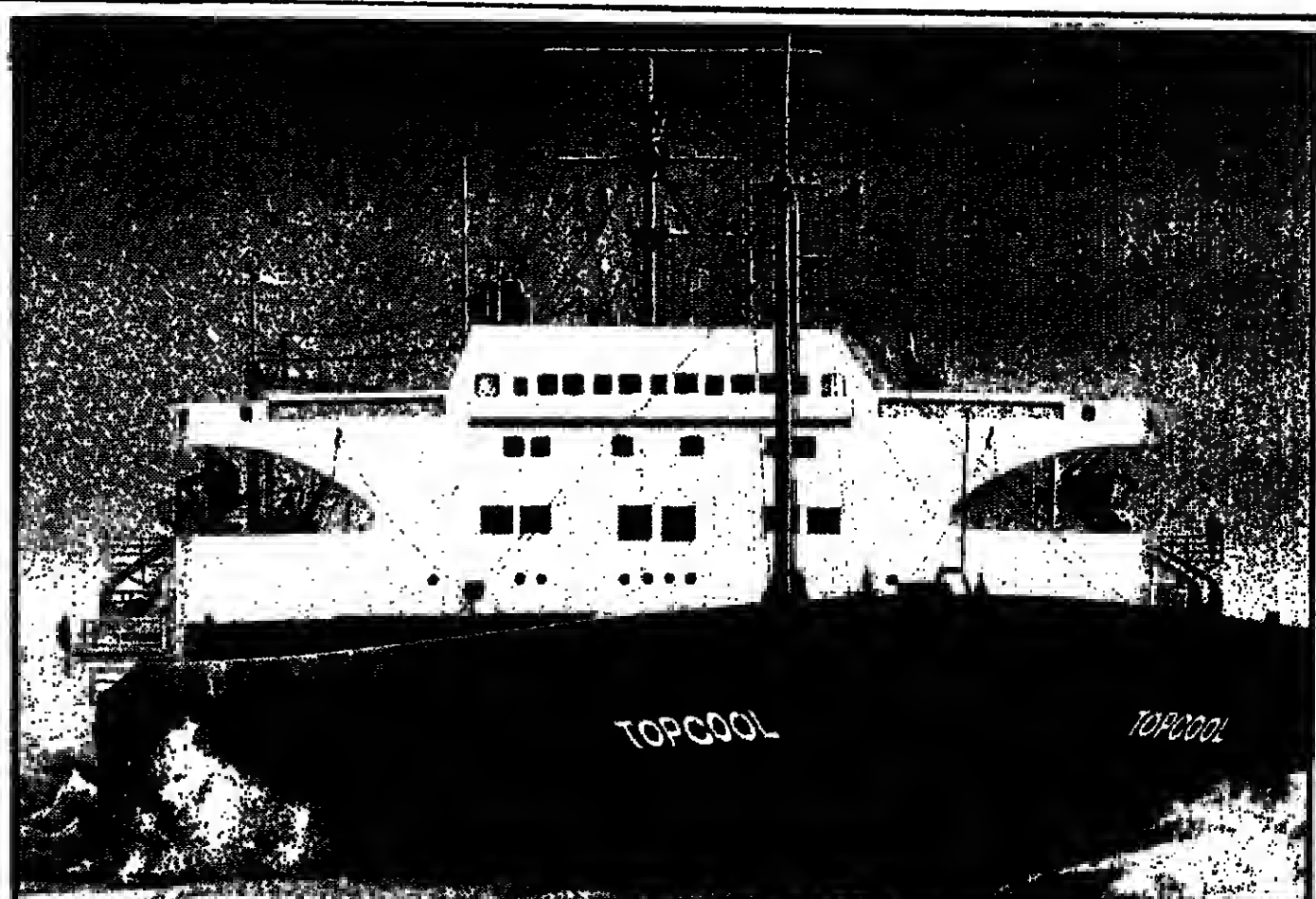


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middle east

Middle East in the US

Ily Abdulsalam Nassarneh
Star Washington Correspondent

Americans grip Islam

THERE IS an increasing interest in Islam in Washington and in many places across the United States. Many universities and organizations are holding seminars on the subject, and only a few days ago the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University conducted a seminar about the relationship between Islam and political process in the Middle East.

In Washington, the Martin Luther King Library in conjunction with the Islamic Centennial Fourteen Committee has announced that a series of lectures and films presentation on Islam will be held every Thursday evening for the next five weeks.

Topics to be covered in the series include: Muhammad and the rise of Islam, the path of God, Religion and Politics, Literature in Islam, Sufism and Islamic Philosophy and Islam in Africa. The lecturers are Dr. Louis J. Cantori of the University of Maryland, Dr. Donald Pipes, of the State Department in

Washington, Dr. Fedwa Malti-Douglas of the University of Texas, Dr. Abdulaziz Suli of the American University and Dr. Sulayman S. Nyang of Howard University.

New Mosque

WITH THE support of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, a Mosque, and a Library will be inaugurated in Plainfield, Indiana, on Saturday.

Qatar's Ambassador in Washington will represent the Emir at the ceremony. The Mosque will serve thousands of Muslims in Indiana, and it will be called Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani Mosque and Library.

The building which cost nearly \$3,500,000 is the first Mosque which has been built in the United States with full financial participation and contribution of an Arab leader.

Save Lebanon concert

THE AMERICAN-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which was founded over the two years ago by former United States Senator James Abourezk, is tirelessly working to aid the Palestinian and Lebanese victims of war in many different ways. Among the projects of Abourezk and his organization's Executive Director, Dr. James Zoghy, is a fund-raising gala concert with the stars of Hollywood on 22 May.

Also featuring are Danny Thomas and Ellen Burstyn, Casey Kasem and the symphony for United Nations under the patronage of Joseph Eger and the Paul Hill Choral. Proceeds from the concert will be used to assist Palestinian and Lebanese children who were victimized by the brutality of the Israeli firepower during the war in Lebanon last year.

Through the generous donations of Americans and Arab Americans and hospitals in the US there are 29 Lebanese children in the US getting medical treatment.

Abourezk is assisted in this concert activity by former Senator George McGovern, who said there are more children in Lebanon who urgently need medical treatment.

Debate on the West Bank

NEW YORK - The Group of Arab countries Monday called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to debate the situation on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The request was submitted by Group Chairman Jasim Youssef Jassir of Qatar to the Security Council Chairman, Zaire's Umhu Di Lutete. The date of the debate is not yet known, the Security Council is currently discussing the Guatemalan issue.

The Council had met on stepped up Israeli colonization of the West Bank twice before - last November and February - at the request of Arab nations, but the meetings failed to produce a resolution.

Arab aid for Africa: The Comoros Islands syndrome

By Robert Puillot
Star Economy Analyst

COULD YOU IMAGINE what the impact of a \$2 billion project would have on the Jordanian economy?

Jobs, yes, for thousands of workers. Profits also for hundreds of large and small suppliers. But inflation for sure. Skyhigh prices in a matter of months with too much money chasing too few goods.

Yes, that is about what happened last year in the Comoros Islands when the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), together with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the Opec Fund for International Development and the African Development Fund, gave its final go-ahead in April 1982 to a project designed to expand the docking capacity of the Mitsinidou port.

The harbour was virtually the country's only one capable of accommodating very heavy cargo. The \$47 million financial package will help provide security of supplies to the Comoros Islands in addition to boosting export capability, encourage greater tourist flows and generate precious foreign exchange earnings.

In short, it will cause a boom and the biggest nightmare won't be the implementation of the project (after all, it had to be done) but how to avoid frantic bottlenecks during the construction period.

Since independence in 1974, the project is the biggest ever undertaken by this tiny archipelago lying north west of Madagascar, just at the mouth of the Mozambique canal. With a population slightly larger (300,000) than in Qatar, living from coffee, cacao and vanilla, this French speaking and Muslim country will be cashing in about \$35 million from Muslim/Opec funds with this project, as much in fact as during the four previous years combined.

And though the archipelago is a former French overseas territory (territoire d'outre mer), Arab and Opec money has now become its prime source of development funds.

Nearly the same applies to a string of 18 other less developed countries where BADEA has been concentrating its efforts on the African continent since March 1975 when it first launched its aid operations.

Beside road construction in Rwanda, Upper Volta, Zimbabwe, Central Africa and Kenya, BADEA also financed a large power plant in Botswana and opened a line of credit of the Development Bank of Zambia.

A boost in capital
The reason why BADEA suddenly comes in the limelight is that its capital has been pushed up last week to nearly \$1 billion following a meeting held by all multilateral Arab aid institutions in Algiers, the first of its kind.

The move doesn't really mean fresh capital for the bank and thus an escalation of aid efforts in Africa. It merely reflects a transfer of idle funds kept as reserves to the shareholders' equity. In short, a facelift of the balance sheet.

The bank's biggest shareholders, holding control over voting rights are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates which have so far contributed two thirds of BADEA's overall capitalization.

Yet, the fact that \$988.25 million have so far been committed to BADEA is a healthy sign of what the Arab world has done so far for the black continent. For BADEA is only the smallest of all Arab donors.

As a multilateral agency with 18 shareholders, all Arab countries, it is a brainchild of the famous Arab summit held in Algiers in November 1973. In the wake of the Ramadan war and the first major oil price explosion.

The Arab heads of state had then three targets: the establishment of BADEA, of a Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa (SAFAF) - which was finally absorbed by BADEA two years later - and of an Afro-Arab Technical Co-operation Fund.

The next month, a meeting was held in Cairo between representatives of the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity to set an initial capital of \$125 million and

provisional headquarters in Khartoum, because of Sudan's strategic position as a geographic and cultural link between Africa and the Arab world.

However a year later, upon the request of Tanzania, the capitalization of the bank was nearly doubled to \$231 million. And since, it increased fourfold with a new ceiling of \$80 million per year in loans and a capacity to commit up to \$13 million on each project provided its share does not exceed 40 per cent of the overall cost of the venture.

The interesting aspect about BADEA is that it acts as a kind of "development scout" for Muslim/Opec funds in Africa.

Primo, it is probably the most active of all Muslim/Opec agencies in terms of co-financing, whereby several donors get together to fund one particular project. On average since 1975, for each dollar it invested, BADEA was able to attract another six from other donors.

That is what is called "aid leverage". Have a look at its track record to see how BADEA, now sitting in brand new headquarters since 1981, has used "other people's money" to fund development.

Its total cumulative loan commitments up to December 1982 reached \$534 million. But once emergency aid of SAFAF, grants and lines of credits are included, the total reaches \$749 million with \$450 million actually disbursed.

Now a breakdown of how it blended money various agencies together, first from Muslim/Opec funds and then from Western and other international funds, could be drawn only until the end of 1981. Here is how it worked:

- For a total of \$2.6 billion worth of projects, BADEA put only 14 per cent of about \$365 million within its co-financing programme.

- Throughout the period, the biggest partners were Western and multilateral agencies with a take of 63 per cent or \$1.5 billion, followed by Muslim/Opec funds with 23 per cent or \$778.5 million.

World immigrant problems

For, the inhabitants of the Gulf states are either privileged full-fledged citizens or aliens. Out of the total four million population of the five countries of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, only 1.6 million are citizens. The proportion these nations hold against other non-citizen groups varies from one state to another - enjoying an overwhelming majority in Oman and accounting for two-thirds, 40, 20% and only 15% of the total populations of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and U.A.E. respectively.

On the whole, with the exception of Oman, they seem to make up quite significant minorities. But being the indigenous owners of the land and oil wells, these minorities have thrived as the privileged sector in the societal pattern of the Gulf states. On top of this

privileged sector are the sheikhs and close kin families - that is the governing, the most influential and the richest elite - not more than 5% of the privileged citizens. They have had a long experience in dealing with foreign capital and trade - an experience that has passed down from one generation to another ever since their sheikhdoms rose as trade centres to receive and dispose of Portuguese and later British overseas trader's merchandise carried over from Europe to India and the Far East, and back therefrom to Europe.

The same originally trade-agent sheikhdoms went under British protection in 1820, and remained so until only recently, just a decade or two ago, when they managed to get their independence thanks to oil discovery and exploitation. At present the elite

figure out as the governing oligarchy and seem to grow more and more wealthy and influential. The role of this political, economic, social and administrative superstructure is to keep in the saddle, to amass big fortunes (drawing upon foreign-invested capital and on bargaining connections with the West) and to do their utmost to keep everybody else at an arm's length and under good control.

For, surprisingly or naturally enough, the remaining 85% of the privileged citizen-nationals have kept happily silent and complacently contented so far - thanks to the official subsidies and oil-bonuses they get. Lined, bought by the governing elite, is distributed to the governed nationals in the form of ready-constructed - villa sites, or in the form of interest-free loans

wherewith to set up housing and business accommodations. Education is not only given free to citizens but extra funds are paid to students as well. Scholarship grants are offered generously both locally and abroad. Yet in spite of such official-sponsored educational incentives, national students seem to evade technologically and industrially oriented programmes, and looking forward to getting key government positions, they also opt for Ph.D's in humanities and administration instead. And why should they seriously care about what they are actually bound to achieve? When they graduate, key administrative positions in both the government and business are kept exclusively theirs. Every year in Kuwait, for example, there are around 3500 new government vacancies, although Kuwaiti authorities do admit there are no fewer than 6500 redun-

Continued on page 11



Right from the start, co-financing was used to speed up the actual disbursement process of funds, mainly with the African Development Bank and the OECD sponsored African Development Fund as well as the World Bank group which, in fact, served as BADEA's initial springboard.

Arab connection

Two Arab partners were crucial from the start, the Kuwait and Saudi funds. Whereas the emphasis is now put on full joint financing with Arab funds (including donors such as Oman, Iraq and Qatar), which have become as important now as non-Arab agencies, parallel financing (whereby a project is divided into lots funded separately by each lender) extended substantially with European institutions Canada and Sweden.

As a member of the co-ordination secretariat of Arab National and Regional Development Institutions, based in Kuwait at the Arab Fund, BADEA operates as a sort of "fifth column", tracing and identifying projects which could likely be funded by its Arab partners in non-Arab African countries.

And in that respect, terms and conditions of its loans are quite significant, showing a trend of cash squeeze among donors as well as greater caution in injecting too much "free capital" in recipient countries.

After reaching a peak of 47.4 per cent in 1976, the grand portion of BADEA loans (the amount which doesn't need to be repaid) has dropped in a spectacular fashion to 20.6 per cent in 1981. The grace period - the maximum time extension allowed before repayment starts - dropped from 5 to 3.8 years while the maturity of the loan itself shrank from a high of 23.5 years to an all-time low of 14 years. Meanwhile, interest rates soared from less than 3 per cent in 1976 to 6 per cent in 1981.

Tight aid is really what BADEA is forecasting for the coming years, a fact that the Comoros Islands had to live with by paying 5 per cent as most favoured borrower for 15 years and a 5 year period of grace.

Under the Patronage of Mr. Jawdat Sha'sha'a

The grand opening of Mas'ad Furniture Centre

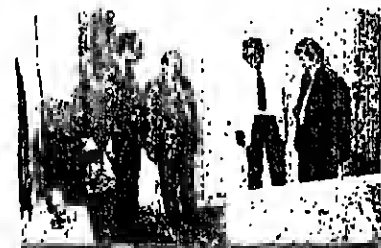
MR. MAS'AD WARRAD:

The owner, Mr. Warrad, said: "We have confidence and pride in

the Jordanian individual because he has taste and is inclined to choose the best within his available capabilities. We display the most splendid and modern European furniture at low prices commensurate with the income of all categories of people." Our goods are known for their quality and they fit all tastes. We import about 70 per cent of our furniture and we make the rest in our factories. We look forward to have all our furniture made by ourselves. Finally, I invite the citizenry to visit the exhibition and to judge our displayed items. Mr. Mas'ad added.



Messrs Jawdat Sha'sha'a and Mas'ad Warrad converse with Mohammad Al-Shunli

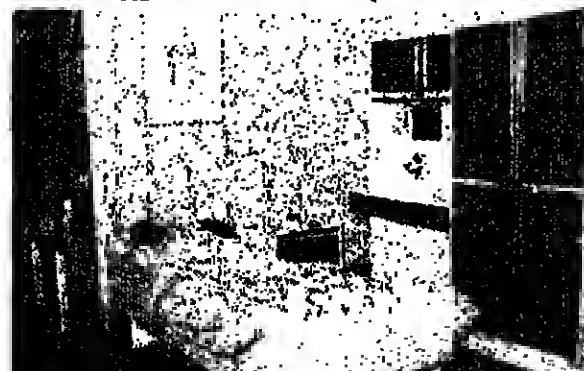


The exhibition contained bedrooms, salons, sitting rooms, dining rooms, crystal chandeliers, aquariums, wall paper, recording machines, stereos, carpets, toys and gifts.



LOTTERY:

At the end of the opening ceremony a lottery drawing was conducted. The prizes consisted of Datsun car 1983/ bedroom/ salon, sitting room/ video and television/ crystal chandeliers. A sweets buffet was set up honouring visitors.



MR. JAWDAT SHA'SHA'A:

Chairman of the

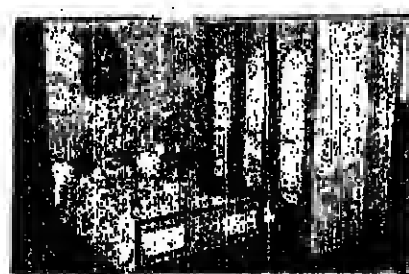
Board of Cairo-Amman Bank Mr. Sha'sha'a, spoke highly of the exhibition and of the quality of displayed items and reasonable prices wishing its owners success.



A foreign guest speaks with The Star correspondent



The largest display hall for modern furniture

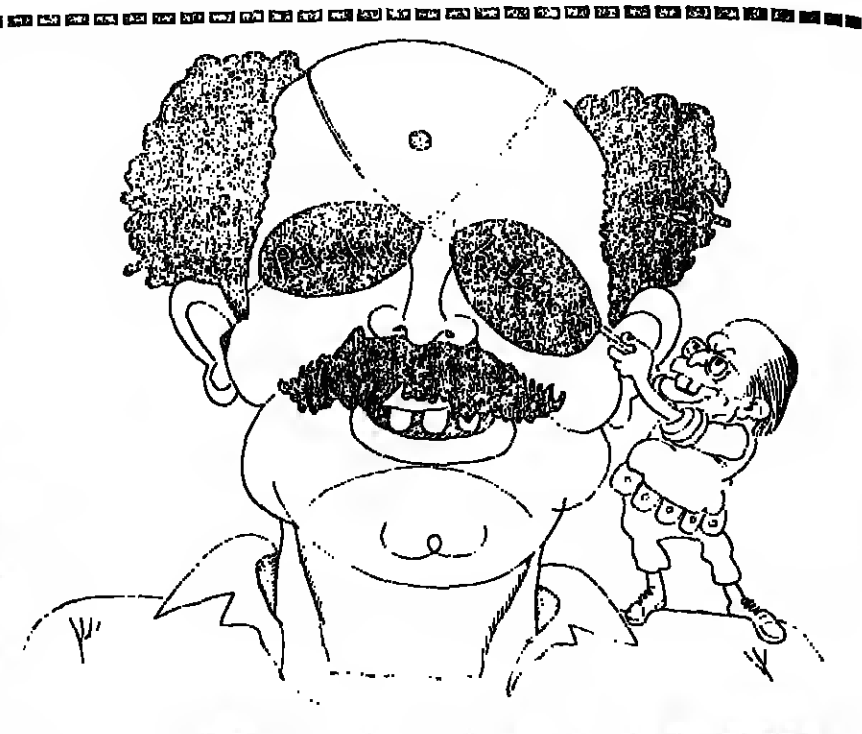


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Yonsei Ammar



"The total amount requested for aid for all Central America in 1984 is about \$600 million. This is less than one-tenth of what Americans will spend this year on coin-operated video games," - President Reagan

To the editor:

P.S. Speaking as one of your regular readers, I am always impressed with the quality and variety of topics presented in The Jerusalem Star. It particularly provides a comprehensive and stimulating insight into the events and issues in the Arab world.)

**Irene
Oxford, En**

Where are we going?



Greetings in Jerusalem

AFTER THE SIGNING of the Israeli-Japanese agreement, Dr. Eli Salem, foreign minister of Lebanon and former professor at the American University of Beirut, said something to the effect that — "whoever has better ideas or a better solution please come forward and suggest them to us." Dr. Salem looked very tired, even whipped. Sadly the statement contained a certain amount of resignation. In addition, while on the inside of this academician, used to dealing with youth, with the time, is a question worth pondering.

Later and still unmiling Dr. Saleh said, "—well, better fifty Israel soldiers than fifty thousand—," and that is how it is.

Something is wrong with the mathematicians. No, not the mathematicians of H. Salem, but the mathematicians of the whole equation of conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis. On the one side there are four millions and on the other over one hundred and forty, and yet the small eats the big. Something unnatural is going on here for everyone knows that big fish always devour the small ones. That is the law of nature. Unless the big fish is sick and in that case it ceases even to defend itself and gets consumed at any time. What is the nature of the sickness?

The problem is not a problem of quality versus quantity. This should be clear when we are talking of a unique one. So unique, in fact that it leads in matters of the politics of the Middle East, one of the two major super powers. How? or why?, is another matter altogether but for our purposes the end result is dreadful. Watching ourselves to one day devour our own flesh and dignity devoured or exposed we seem to be able to do nothing but be sad and to be reinitiated about our past. Is it the responsibility of development internal and this challenge external that paralyses us? Whose responsibility is it to turn us around so as to see the future once again? Man for man, our man in the street does not measure any less that of Israel. What is missing? For the Israelis are not gluttons in the Biblical sense nor are they super men. Lacking information the Arab man in the street does not truly know whether Syria was right or wrong in saying no. Who knows?

On my way home I was pondering what a friend of mine just said. It was only one O'clock in the morning and I passed, along Wadi Abdou street, nine or ten year-old school children walking by the side of the road. My friend had just said in a matter fact way and without any bitterness or anger, "How can we survive, let alone defend ourselves when no one points the direction to us? What'll we eat what we do not plant and wear what we do not manufacture? Once we were producers now even our loaf we import from abroad."

And looking at the school children, about two hundred of them with their teachers and their bags of food and fruit I wondered about their lives. Sadness was mixed with joy. Sadness at the whole picture it really so dysfunctional, so disunited, so grim, even seemingly hopeless. And at seeing these school children at the innumerable of their teachers walking, not riding a bus, on a days outing, one of their school activities perhaps discussing the affairs of the world, perhaps dreaming. From their looks they came from one of the less privileged districts of Amman. I liked the sight of these government school children in their modest but clean and neat looking clothing doing their due. They gave me some hope and I wondered what they were carrying for lunch in their plastic bags.

Do these school children know about what happened in Palestine? Do they know what is happening to them? Do they know where Tabat is or where is the Golan? Do they know that Palestine is now called Israel, Judea and Samaria? Do they know about Arafat funds, cyclized revolvers or perhaps bicycled elsewhere? Do they ask themselves about their parents and why they seem so empty.

So timid, so fearful like fugitives from their own conscience? How
 were they made so, more seemingly disinterested onlookers? Is any
 body preparing them for the ultimate truth that this is truly an un-
 friendly world and that they as Arabs have become the punching bag
 humanity. Is that why Dr. Saleem, the academically irritated foreign min-
 ister made the unmathematical statement that fifty is better than fifty
 thousand?

[REDACTED]

Continued from page 5

dant official posts, and what is more, while in official service, citizens are allowed to go into business. The stipulation by law that no less than 51% of business capital must be provided locally, national capital financiers are chased by foreign-investment firms, mainly engaged in importing of industry equipment, foodstuffs, furniture, cars, and subsequently export

"And India, at its lowest ebb, has been societal leader, stand the cheap-labor and immigrant together, forming in Bombay from New York and particularly from India and Pakistan, besides with Iranian refugees who have either settled down or formed substantial communities of their own, even keeping coming over to work back from Iran as circumstances dictated. If the European and other vital economies have been called upon to

By Henry Matar

provided for a patient but also extra allowances are disbursed to the full family of relatives that keep him company all the time he is looked after in Europe. The sum result of all such state-sponsored facilities is that it is normally parasite, self-seeking, lazy and self-designed big minority has grown. While thriving on the fat of foreign-invested capital, it has been kept not only complacently quiet but also hostile to any change in the status quo.

Next to the privileged citizen sector of nationals, out of which problem families are left out and better tribes (mainly uneducated and engaged in smuggling jobs to Iran, in particular) opt out, comes the non-citizen infrastructure of oil industry and of companion business activity. It is an infrastructure to which subscribe technicians, expert financiers and expert business managers together with teaching staff on the peripherals of industry and business. These are either Europeans or Arab expatriates: mainly Palestinians and Egyptians. The Europeans get the best paid jobs, wield the greatest influence, and lend the atmosphere its surface modern European veneer; the Arab expatriates earn well enough, pay a lot for consumption and in rem, provide their families at home

Though predominantly impoverished, down-trodden and devoid of any rights, the immigrant labour force in the Gulf area may prove in a few years to be the trouble there if they continue to be

supported by foreign-capital financiers. Many of them, having been entrusted with the task of looking after the children of the richest Arab families in the area, may influence the behaviour and culture patterns of the rising generations there. It is "The Stealthy and Silent Danger Threatening the Arab Family Status" as Dr. Ibrahim 'Aladdin, an enlightened and knowledgeable professor of sociology at the American University of Cairo, bluntly puts it in an article published in the local press a fortnight ago. Nobody can help but agree with Dr. 'Aladdin's remark that this "has been the result of the distorted pattern of development that prevails in the Arab Gulf countries: a pattern that depends more on consumption than on production, more upon commerce than industry, and more upon importation than exportation". Within this pattern of development, the capitalist-possessing and exploiting super structure "has indulged in the pleasure of practising parasite activities such as land - property and investment transactions, or/and otherwise has monopolised the state's positions". While the rich few squander their money abroad or otherwise locally in Western-emulating edifices and pleasures, and in festivities reminiscent of Arabian Nights' legends; and while their wives spend a great part of the year going to and back from Europe to shop at Harrods' Mark and Spencers' and Selfridges, in Oxford Street and other streets of London, their children are allowed to take doses of a salad culture seasonal with Indian, Pakistani, Philippine and what not spices, adds Dr. 'Aladdin.

Might it not be further said that in-the-sand-hidden head's outlook, in an on-the-sand built structure readily acquiescent in foreign-designed policy and economy, and liable to (collapse over any time the desert oil-absorbent sand might tend to dry this oil's resources, a turn of fortune might be irrecoverably disastrous to those policy makers that have so long counted on the shuri-seasoned hey day of fragmentation and isolationism?

Politics, man and the metamorphosis

By Osama El-Sherif

POLITICIANS WILL DO ANYTHING to get their names in the news. Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance are teaming up in a fight to bring the World Cup to the United States in 1986. Although both men were invited out of the political arena from its widest door, they are now trying to sneak in, from the window. But isn't this what a politician should do: Keep fighting so as to stay in?

Politicians who later became presidents are a strange breed of people. No one really knows where they come from and how. The United States is a unique country in this sense. Mr. Washington was an army general, Lincoln a lawyer, Andrew Johnson was apprenticed to a tailor, Garfield was a farmer and a carpenter.

Hoover was an engineer, Carter is probably the most famous peanut farmer in the world today, and Reagan was a Hollywood soper star in the 1950s. But despite all the variations they all managed to get into politics somehow and rule "the mightiest nation on earth."

Of course not every president is a good politician. Look at the Third World, for example. Many leaders leaped to become presidents not

through their hard working efforts as campaigners believing in democratic values and the right of the people to vote and choose their own representative as president, but through a device called military coups or takeovers. It is not until they become self-made presidents that they go through the strange and complex metamorphosis of changing from soldiers to selfish politicians. It is easy to win the position but it needs wills to keep it and protect it from other ambitious soldiers. Not many survive this mental transplant or metamorphosis and they fall tragically at the feet of the fittest. But then this too is a rule in politics.

If this game is so dangerous, for all politicians alike since it requires falling in the end, why do people want it and why do they leave their professions—as lawyers and farmers and carpenters—to engage in it? Perhaps it is power, authority, money or just personal satisfaction. Many people do not believe what the politicians say about their motives, that is, “to serve the people.”

Personally, I think watching politicians is more fun than being one. In fact it is the job of newspapers to dig up the good and the bad sides of politicians' lives. (We do it with joy). You see, we also say we are doing this to serve the people.

VIEWPOINT

Defusing an explosive situation

By Ya'acoub Jaber

THE AGREEMENT on troop withdrawal from Lebanon, which was supposed to have made things easier, has instead complicated the situation as many signs indicate so far. Before the agreement was reached, the general argument went that a solution to the Lebanese crisis was essential for movement towards or overall Middle East peace. Now that the accord has been worked out and signed, the clouds of a new war are looming and the region looks far from ready for a period of tranquillity in which peace efforts could flourish and advance.

Whose fault, and what has gone wrong?

Certainly things would have gone smoothly had Syria accepted the accord and agreed to pull its forces out of Lebanon. Syria's rejection of the agreement has given Israel the pretext to stay in Lebanon and even abrogate the accord at a time of its own choosing.

Israel, however, cannot hide the fact that it is not quite comfortable with the present situation. It faces an escalating war of attrition which it cannot afford for persistent domestic reasons.

Faced with the reality that their continued military presence in Lebanon in a position of vulnerability could be highly costly, Israeli leaders have been contemplating an alternative plan based on unilateral withdrawal to a certain point in the south. This plan has been strongly opposed by Defence Minister Moshe Arens on the grounds that the partial withdrawal would not end the war of attrition and could prompt other hostile forces to move into the areas evacuated by the Israelis.

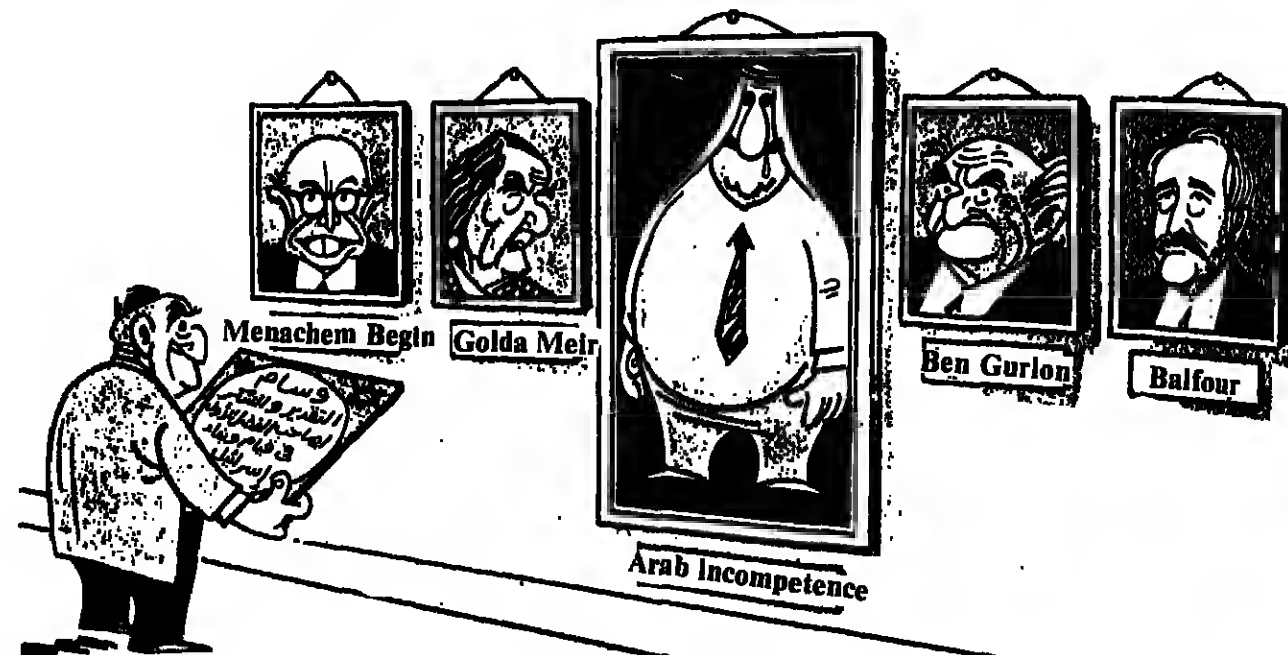
Israel has made its implementation of the agreement conditional on a simultaneous Syrian and PLO withdrawal. It is not conceivable, then, that Israel and Lebanon would put their agreement into effect, leaving the question of Syrian and Palestinian military presence unresolved.

It is quite clear that if the present stalemate is allowed to continue, war could not be avoided and a new war breaks out. It might have greater repercussions and more gravity than previous ones.

The two superpowers have forces in positions not far away from each other. Each will try to prove that its weapons are superior and more deadly.

There is an urgent need to defuse the tension, because an explosion could seriously damage peace prospects for years to come. Again the United States is the key element. Washington can do this by taking new steps to convince all parties concerned in the Middle East that comprehensive peace is coming, covering all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the anniversary of Israel's establishment



Who deserves the credit?

THE 35th anniversary of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, which led to the creation of Israel, and the controversy over the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement are major headlines in this week's editorial opinion.

Arab newspapers treat the anniversary with calls on Arab states to unite and shun differences so as to avoid further military and political setbacks.

United ranks and attitudes

Noting that the anniversary comes at a time of grave challenges and fateful circumstances, the Qatari newspaper Al-Arab writes that only through unity of ranks and attitudes can the Arab avert similar disasters and bring about an honourable solution to the Palestinian problem.

The paper lauds the struggle of Palestinians in the occupied territories and elsewhere against the enemy's schemes, and calls on the Arabs to rise to meet the Zionist challenge and give maximum support to the Palestinians' heroic struggle.

Al-Jihad of Abu Dhabi says that the creation of Israel marked the beginning of a long series of setbacks at the military, political and social levels, which have befallen the Arab nation over the past 35 years.

It expresses the view that Arab social and economic backwardness has been a major factor in leading to the present situation in the Arab world.

It calls on the Arabs to examine carefully the events of the past four decades, to draw the right conclusions and then come up with definite answers on how to avoid future defeat and force their way to victory.

Al-Bayan newspaper of Dubai warns against continued dependence on the superpowers for solutions to Arab issues.

The paper expresses the belief that the superpowers have been working against Arab unity since the end of the Second World War, and are now striving to foil any attempt to forge a common Arab stand that can be decisive in the achievement of Arab national goals.

"Ever since the end of World War II the Arabs alone among other nations have been kept engaged in a series of wars in defence of their existence, with the superpowers making no serious effort to put an end to the bloody conflict."

As a matter of fact, the superpowers are nurturing this conflict," the paper explains.

"The dangers threatening our nation come from the East as well as from the West; and they can only be effectively confronted by dependence on the Arabs' own potential."

Wedge among Arabs

On the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the Qatari English-language newspaper Gulf Times calls for the convening of an Arab summit conference to discuss the accord, its implications and consequences.

It warns against a split in Arab ranks over the accord, saying that the US and Israel aim to drive a wedge among Arab states. This should not be allowed to happen, because if it does the Arabs will regret it for years to come.

Al-Fajr newspaper of Abu Dhabi writes that Lebanon should be free to decide what is best for its people, because it is Lebanon that is mainly concerned with this matter, and it is Lebanon that is threatened by partition if the Israeli forces do not withdraw from its territory. "Lebanon has been suffering for a long time without any effective Arab help to end it, so it is fair and logical to let Lebanon have its say about the agreement without pressures from others," the paper writes.

It concludes by urging Arab states to study the Lebanese situation carefully before deciding on any steps and confine their action to advice or else meet at a suitable level if the matter requires a meeting.

In Cairo, the newspaper Al-Gomhoriya writes that Egypt has welcomed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement because it believes that peace in the Middle East must be a strategic objective for all the countries of the region which have suffered a great deal from wars and bloodshed.

It also calls on the rival Lebanese factions to stop fighting among themselves and unite to foil the dangers facing them all.

Another Egyptian newspaper, Al-Ahram, writes that US responsibilities in the Middle East go far beyond reaching an agreement between Lebanon and Israel on troop withdrawal because the accord is merely a first step towards a just and comprehensive settlement in the region to be based on

complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem.

The paper reiterates that the building of settlements obstructs peace efforts, and denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and attempts to erode the role of the PLO are mistakes that should be avoided.

Al-Ahram goes on to say that once Israel respected its agreement with Lebanon and the United States shouldered its responsibility in implementing it honestly and impartially, other Arab parties will then be persuaded to opt for negotiations as a means to end the Middle East conflict and reinstate the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

King's complaint

Commenting on His Majesty King Hussein's message to the Association of Arab-Americans, Ad-Dustour of Amman remarks that the King has warned the defenders of Israel that they cannot confine to claim that the Zionist state wants to co-exist peacefully in the region because its practices in the past few years included acts of genocide against the Palestinian people.

Ad-Dustour also refers to His Majesty's complaint that the United States has been "undermining the Israeli policies by increasing its economic and military aid to it."

It points to the King's remark that Israel cannot win both peace and land as such peace means surrender and acceptance of foreign hegemony.

"The King was careful to remind US President Reagan that he should have asserted in his peace plan the illegality of acquisition of foreign territory by force, as such acquisition constitutes total and unequivocal violation of the basic principles of justice and peace," the paper writes.

On the same topic, Al-Bal' notes that King Hussein has stressed the basic point in the Middle East situation, and this is that Israel is the only party which blocks peace and prevents any progress towards a peaceful settlement.

"The King's message has concentrated mainly on pointing out the fact that while Israel is 'carrying out' repeated acts of aggression and expanding its territory by military force, it

continues to claim that it seeks peace. This clear-cut contradictory behaviour should alert the United States and the rest of the world to the grave danger inherent in it," writes Al-Bal'.

It goes on to say that the King's message has guided Arab-Americans on how to embark on an organized course of action to enlighten the US public opinion about Middle East issues, especially the fact that has been keeping all peace efforts simply because lenders are not interested in peace in military adventures and expansionism.

Israeli press

Two Israeli newspapers comment on domestic issues. Al-Hamishah says that there is no sign of an end to the three-month-old doctors' strike. It appears that the government's policy of coexisting with this strike, and not convincing solving this problem, is part of its duty. The doctors' methods do not fit members of this profession, the paper says.

Maariv speaks about the sharp decline in stock market prices during the past 10 days, and refers to a meeting with the finance minister in which he said he would buy plenty of bonds. The paper criticises the attitude of the finance minister and describes the view as very serious, with national responsibilities of a minister. "Finance Minister is cautious and wise but in his opinion he proved an utter failure," says.

Haaretz comments that the counsellor to the government, Zamir, has formed a committee to investigate Jews who attacked Arabs in the occupied territories. "When the committee's recommendations are reached, because of the chairman of the committee, Karp, resigned her post as national counsellor."

"This unusual step must attract attention of the public because of the deterioration of duty of Ministry of Defence and its authority," Haaretz writes.

May 1983

WorldPaper
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WorldPaper

The International Newspaper Supplement

A new feature:
China's favorite
comedian

—see page 12



The drop in oil revenues and Israel's invasion of Lebanon mark a major power shift from petrodollars to military might in the Middle East. Regional reports and reactions from Moscow and Washington begin on page 3.

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New York Office

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 New York, N.Y. 10017
 Telephone: (212) 689-0875
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THE WILL TO SURVIVE

The will to survive is the most impressive sight

By Mochtar Lubis
 Associate Editor
 in Southeast Asia

The great city of Calcutta, home to more than ten million people, should, by all counts, have died many years ago.

The black hole of Calcutta is a reality, a site of human misery and poverty at its lowest ebb. In Chowringhee, downtown Calcutta, where the shopping centers, government buildings, business offices and big hotels are, the decaying process is highly visible. Big mounds of earth and stone, dug up from menacing holes opened for the subway project, create never-ending traffic jams and give the area a surreal touch—one never knows whether the city is being torn down or built up.

There are at least three cities within Calcutta. One is the city of the very rich, where houses and apartment buildings are surrounded by high walls, which enclose big and beautiful and well-kept gardens, and where guards are on duty 24 hours a day. The second is the city of the lower middle-class, who live in crowded tenements. And the third, the city of the poorest, is spread across all the sidewalks of Calcutta.

The poor in this great city are among the poorest in the world. They build tiny and flimsy structures from sticks of wood and bamboo, from old crates, paper and plastic which nestle against the walls of buildings. Others dispense with any kind of shelter and just sleep on the sidewalk. Women, men, boys and girls, all bathe from the public water fountains, and use the yellow-brownish water for washing, drinking and cooking. Beggars, young and old, are active in the downtown streets.

Visits to the poorest sections of Calcutta are a heartrending experience. In Indonesia, where I live, there are a lot of people still living below the poverty line, but nothing could compare to what I saw in Calcutta. When we drove along the almost one-mile-long red light district in darkest Calcutta I was aghast, and the lady from Manila who came along with us became quiet with terror as the pimps aggressively offered us the young est of the girls for almost nothing.

The other face of Calcutta is, of course, the world of the rich and the well-to-do. I was most astonished to see the homes of the Calcutta elite. In one I saw a very rich, almost all-Italian, establishment—Italian marble, Italian furnishings and Italian antique art works. I thought I had landed in one of the great mansions in Milan or some other place in Italy. Sitting in those most opulent livingrooms, black Calcutta was far away.

Looking at all this are the Bengali artists—writers, poets, painters. The Bengalis are noted for their artistic bent. They are very good with words, feelings, imagery, sensations and philosophical thoughts. They are the poets who lament, express love and hope and fight against despair for this city that refuses to die. As one of them, Amiya Chakravarti, wrote:

The city's heart is wrapped in stone
 a field where grows no grain.
 Why should you come here again?

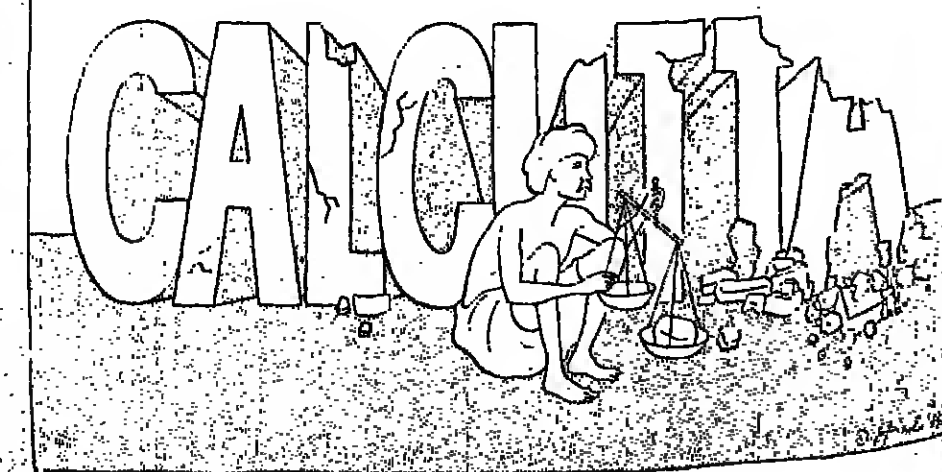
But millions of Calcuttians will wait in vain for the stone field to yield rice grain. They will stay, and others will keep coming. However miserable life could be for the poor in Calcutta, the lure of the big city is irresistible to many in the poor rural areas.

The most impressive thing to me in Calcutta is not the legacy of British Victorian architecture, or the grand Botanical Garden, but the quiet strength of the human will to survive, the seemingly limitless endurance to bear the most unimaginable hardships. Somehow they succeed to snatch tiny bits from their environment which help them see another day. I marvel at their ingenuity.

A whole recycling industry has developed in the hands of the poor. They recycle, by hand, coal dust and cow dung into fuel coke. A visit to one of the "chor bazars" (thieves' markets) filled me with wonder, seeing how, with the simplest self-made tools, they can repair old locks, watches, other tools and even radios.

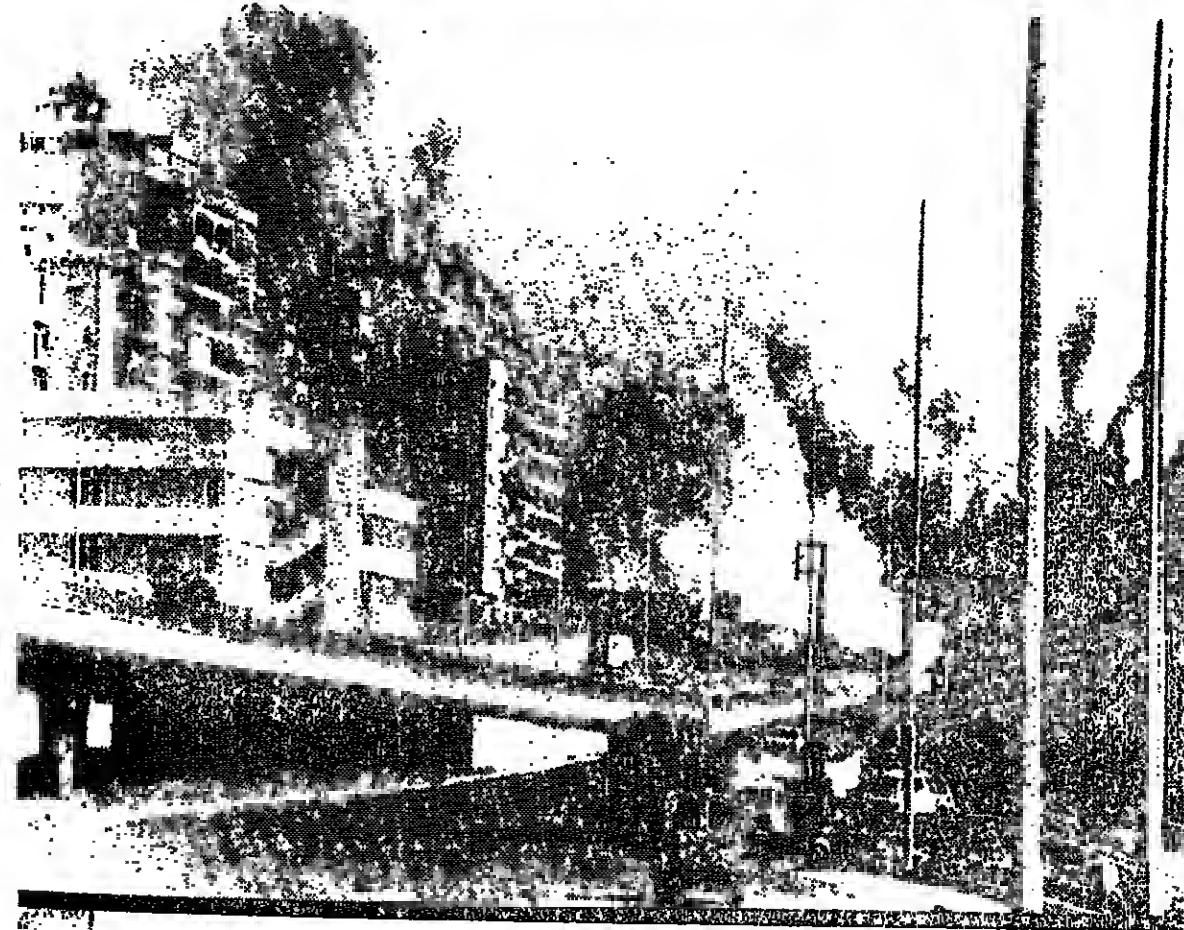
To be able to do this kind of survival act without exploding into a violent and blind rage against the system which has kept them prisoner of this immense poverty and misery is a measure of human patience and surrender to "karma" that I fail to comprehend.

Occasionally, however, when I look at their faces, I could see certain glints in their eyes that expose what is below the apparent acceptance of their situation. Underneath can sense the seething magma of a volcanic social explosion. I can sense the great pressures building up.



DAVID BECOMES GOLIATH

Mideast power shifts from oil to guns



Israeli raid against a Palestinian camp near Jichn, Lebanon, in June 1982

As if to drive the point further home, five months later the Israeli Air Force flew over Saudi air space to monitor activities in the military base of Tabuk, barely a six-minute flight from the Israeli port of Eilat, on the north-western tip of the Saudi Arabian desert. Those overflights go on unabated.

Perhaps the strongest demonstration, however, was last summer's invasion of Lebanon. Within three months—June 6 through September 19, 1982—Israel uprooted the Palestinians from Beirut, showed the Arabs lack of unity, weakened Syria, eradicated Soviet influence in the region, restored the seven-year shattered Lebanese sovereignty and independence and, most of all, asserted by force that Israel had become the uncontested superpower in the Middle East. Some observers even call it the fourth major power in the world, following the United States, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

Mastering power is one thing. What to do with it, however, is another. Israel elected to use its might to shape up the conflict-prone area to its geographic and strategic convenience and interest. It pushed Lebanon to become the second Arab nation to sign a peace treaty with Israel after Egypt; it blocked a possible "association" between the occupied West Bank and Jordan; it threatened Syria; and it proved to the rest of the world that Saudi Arabia, after all, is only a "paper camel" in the Arab world.

Perennial dissensions within the Arab League, the Iraq-Iran war, the upcoming US presidential election campaign, and the weakening Soviet influence in the Middle East all have convinced Israel that the right time to assert its supremacy in the region is now.

That helps to explain the unprecedented intransigence of Israel vis-a-vis world opinion and even toward its practically sole ally, the United States. It is highly unlikely that the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin would yield in any fashion to the outside pressures that constantly are being exerted on his country. The only judge of this policy, ultimately, may very well be Israeli opinion.

The Middle East seems destined to remain a trouble spot with its people increasingly frustrated. And precisely because of this frustration, the superpowers will find a fertile terrain upon which to exert more influence.

By David Toufic Mizrahi
 Associate Editor
 for the Middle East

NEW YORK—For nearly a decade—from the end of 1973 until late 1981, the dominant force in the Middle East rested in the Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iraq, Algeria and Libya, under the leadership and major influence of Saudi Arabia. By 1982, however, Israeli military power had begun to dislodge this petropower. Accumulating one military success upon another, Israel now wields absolute supremacy over the skies, seas and land of the Middle East, the Gulf and North Africa.

Leadership changes over the decade may have a lot to do with the direction the region's politics have taken. In Israel, for example, Golda Meir's legacy was followed by Menachem Begin's hard line. Elsewhere in the region, heads of the old regimes who had set the tone and personality of each nation's political character were followed, on the whole, by less charismatic leaders.

In Egypt, for example, President Hosni Mubarak succeeded President Anwar Sadat, thereby lessening Egypt's international initiatives. In Saudi Arabia, King Faysal was followed by King Khalid first and then King Fahd. In Iran the Islamic Revolution gave way to the fervor of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's devout Islamic Republic. In Lebanon, the civil war and the assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel brought to power his brother Amin, a private businessman with strong contacts in Riyadh. In Algeria, Houari Boumedienne was replaced by Chadli Bendjedid.

Even the remaining monarchs and presidents like Hafez Assad of Syria, Muammar al-Kaddafi of Libya and Saddam Hussein of Iraq have had a lesser role to play either due to their economic predicaments, or to dwindling oil revenues, or to the very fact that they were overshadowed by stronger leadership in the neighborhood.

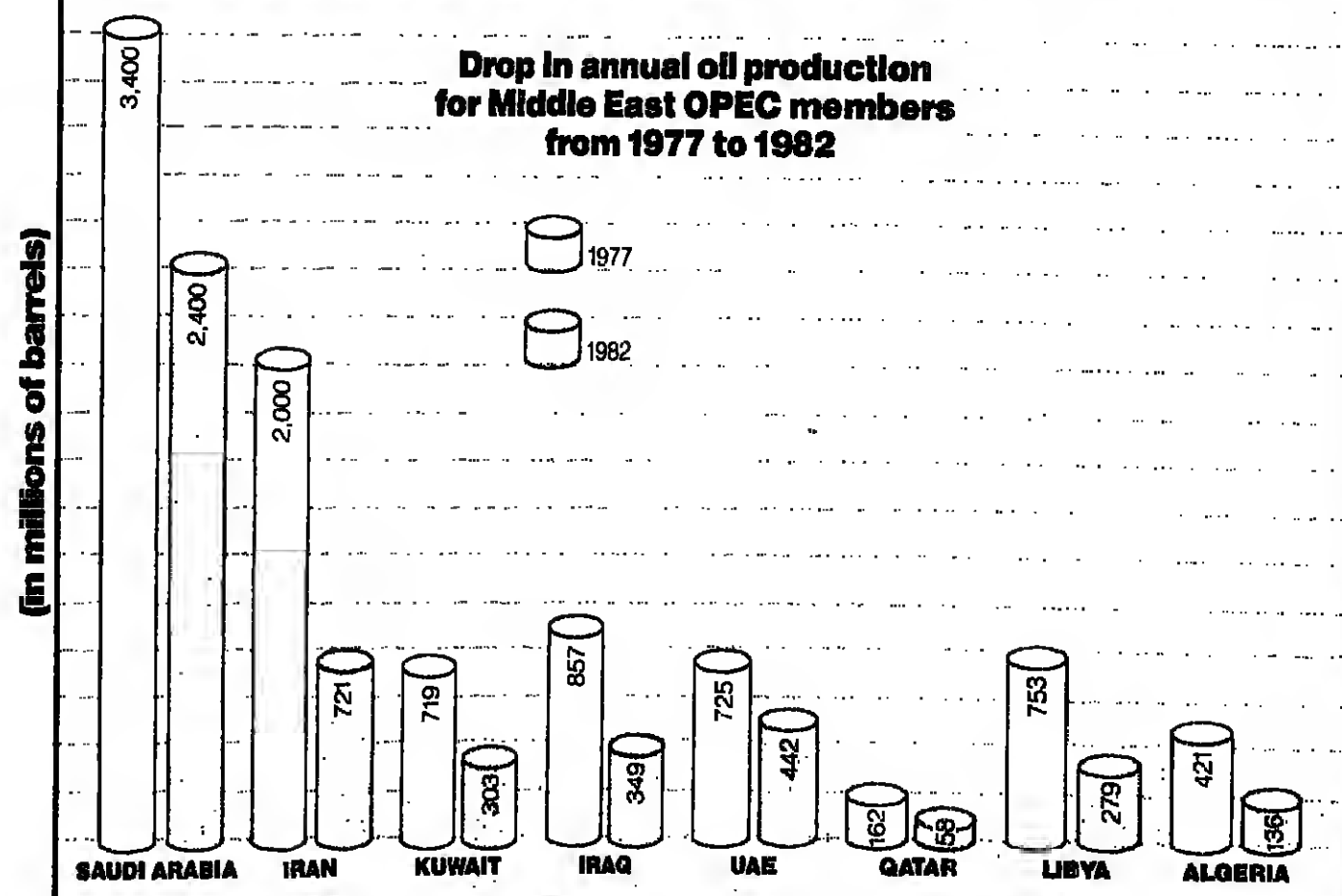
The net result has been a turning inward and a continuous erosion of influence and power which manifested itself in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the Mecca rebellion of November 1979 had some sobering effects on the ruling family. Spending be-

came less ostentatious, and the monarchy was forced to make the welfare of its population first priority.

The drastic cut in petroleum consumption by the industrialized democracies, brought on by a combination of energy conservation, economic recession, alternative energy sources, oil from non-OPEC producers and even mild winters, gradually defused the two major "weapons" that helped over the years to build Arab petropower—petroleum and petrodollars. The declining oil revenue prompted the Saudi leadership to reduce foreign aid and to actively seek lessening of tensions in Lebanon, between North and South Yemen, Iraq and Iran, Syria and Jordan, Morocco and Algeria, Syria and Iraq and within the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel watched all these developments with extreme alacrity and, wasting no time, showed the world the first signs of Arab vulnerability on June 7, 1981. In a matter of minutes, the Israeli Air Force had destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor and, in passing, violated the air space of either Jordan or Saudi Arabia, two of its Arab enemies.

Drop in annual oil production for Middle East OPEC members from 1977 to 1982



Source: Petroleum Economist, March 1983

DAVID BECOMES GOLIATH

Israeli-US alliance holds firm

By Wolf Blitzer
Special to WorldPaper

WASHINGTON, DC—Many people feel that Israel and the United States are on a collision course. It certainly is not very difficult today to focus on the negative aspects of their relationship, given the differences between the Reagan administration and the Begin government on the Lebanese-related talks and on the search for a broader Arab-Israeli peace.

But when viewed over a 35-year period, there can be no denying that US-Israeli relations have dramatically matured and improved. In areas of military, political, economic and cultural cooperation, the two countries have consistently moved closer together.

Take, for example, the military relationship. In 1946, the Truman administration included Israel in a regional arms embargo, forcing Israel, then struggling in its War of Independence against five neighboring Arab armies, to turn to all sorts of sources of badly needed weapons. There were illegal gun-smuggling operations to Israel from the United States, leading to arrests and even jail terms for some Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike.

But, ironically, it was the Soviet Union,

of all countries, which gave the green light to Czechoslovakia to sell Israel some weapons during that war. The sale proved to be very critical in enabling Israel later in 1949 to sign armistice agreements with its Arab neighbors.

What many people tend to ignore today is that the initial Truman arms embargo against Israel remained in effect throughout the two terms of the Eisenhower administration. It was not until the Kennedy administration in the early 1960s that the United States concluded its first-ever arms sale to Israel—a sale involving an older version of the Hawk anti-aircraft missile. Since then, of course, the US-Israeli military relationship has expanded rapidly, especially after the 1967 and 1973 wars. Israel today is the largest individual recipient of US military credits in the annual worldwide foreign assistance legislation.

Politically, the same improvement has occurred. During Israel's first two decades, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion had to struggle to receive an invitation to come to Washington. Years passed before an Israeli leader was officially asked to come to the White House. But since 1967, such official Israeli visits have become commonplace. Prime Minister Menachem Begin, since assuming office in 1977, has come to Washington nearly a

dozen times—probably more than any other foreign head of government during the same period.

Thus, it is clear that the American-Israeli alliance in the 1980s is on a different scale than in earlier years. But what is all the more impressive is the parallel fact that US influence in the Arab world also has improved during these same 35 years—at the expense, very often, of the Soviet Union.

Washington, more than Moscow, is today a more attractive address for many Arab leaders anxious to improve their countries' national interests. In part, this is because the Arabs understand that only the Americans have the political clout to change Israeli policies. The Soviets have provided the Arabs with military support—but the military option against Israel has never been effective in forcing changes in Israeli policies.

There, of course, continue to be sharp differences between Washington and Jerusalem in a host of areas. But both countries have come to recognize that they must keep those differences within limits because, irrespective of which political party is in power in the United States or in Israel, strong, close ties serve each other's national interests.

Amid the daily reports of tension between American marines and Israeli sol-

diers in Lebanon, and the constant background sniping involving unnamed American and Israeli senior officials, it is not difficult to understand why people in Washington and in Jerusalem seem to see only the bad. Nonetheless, the predicted collision course is unlikely to occur, since it would not serve the best interests of either country.

From Israel's point of view, this should be obvious. Israel is very dependent on the United States for economic, military and political support. In addition, Israel is also very close to the six million Jews living in the United States. Every Israeli government, therefore, will begin its decision-making process by considering Washington's stance. That does not mean Israel will always do whatever the United States wants. Israel is, after all, a sovereign, independent state. But it does mean that the US stance will be actively factored into Israel's considerations.

But it is equally important to recognize that this relationship is not a one-way street—certainly not in the 1980s. There are important reasons why the US administrations, whether Democratic or Republican, have come to support Israel. The longstanding moral factors involving the birth of Israel out of the ashes of the Holocaust are still well-understood. There are shared democratic values. But the strategic reasons are today becoming even more important, according to many American and Israeli officials. Israel does, after all, have the strongest military force in the Middle East. In a conventional crunch with the Soviet Union or any other adversary, US defense planners simply take Israel's support for granted. That power could be critical in the eastern Mediterranean.

The United States maintains nearly 300,000 soldiers in Western Europe and almost another 200,000 in the Far East. In the Middle East, there are only 23,000 marines in Lebanon and a few hundred US troops involved in the Sinai peace-keeping operation. One probable reason for that limited US presence is an awareness that Israel, after mobilizing its reserves in 48 hours, can assemble a highly efficient, battle-tested and reliable force consisting of over 400,000 troops.

Israel, of course, is not about to send those soldiers off to fight America's wars unless the government in Jerusalem and the Israeli people conclude that it is in Israel's best interest to do so. But American strategic planners, at a minimum, can assume that US-Israeli allies in the region, especially in the Arab world, are often similar.

As the US intensifies its efforts to end down agreements in Lebanon and on the West Bank, it is important to step back and understand these broader aspects of this special US-Israeli alliance. Despite the current strains between Washington and Jerusalem, there is still good reason to believe that President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz and other senior American policymakers appreciate this Israeli friendship. It has prevented the Americans from expressing their frustration with certain Israeli policies from time to time—settling on the West Bank, to name one very recent issue—but they know that Israel is a popular and dependable ally even if they do not always advertise it in the Arab world.

Wolf Blitzer is the Washington correspondent of the Jerusalem Post. He is the author of the forthcoming book, "The Relationship with Israel," which will be published by Oxford University Press.

US role battered but not bowed

By Harold Saunders
Special to WorldPaper

WASHINGTON, DC—Events over the past year increased pressure on the US position in the Middle East and eroded confidence in its will to act as a great power. But the US still has more potential than any other power to influence the course of events there constructively.

A look at four American interests in the Middle East shows the consequences of recent shifts of power and developments there.

• The US has long recognized the strategic importance of preventing Soviet predominance in this area and of avoiding the confrontation that a Soviet effort to achieve predominance could provoke.

The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan alongside the weakening of central authority in Iran after the revolution underscored the continuing potential for Soviet expansion in this area. The succession of more decisive Soviet leadership will tempt some Middle Easterners to turn again to Moscow for help, which already is moving more actively to improve its position should the US falter.

USSR calls for UN solution

By E. Ryabstev
Special to WorldPaper

MOSCOW—The latest events make clear that the so-called mediation efforts of Washington in Lebanon actually promote the expansionist plans of Tel Aviv. This was precisely the yardstick used by the Reagan administration in its approach to the Palestinian-Jordanian talks. By preserving the expansionist position of Israel, and guaranteeing nothing to the Palestinians with respect to the accomplishment of their legitimate rights to set up their own independent state, the United States hopes to get another Arab country involved in the notorious Camp David process.

The pressure which has been exerted by Washington on the Arab countries has never been so blatant and rude. The US authorities are openly saying that if the Arab states reject the "Reagan plan," they will lose everything. This means that Israel, which is intensively establishing its settlements on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, may fully annex them in the near future. In this manner, Washington agrees in advance to what the Israeli rulers are striving to put through.

It is no wonder then that the Reagan administration has been so persistently urging the Arabs to capitulate. Since the signing of the separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the Americans have been laboriously trying to rope other Arab countries into the Camp David scheme of settling the Middle East crisis. As for the whole of this process has turned into a one-way street in favor of Israel, it is Washington's mediation.

But the resistance in Afghanistan, the political dynamics of revolutionary Iran and the Iran-Iraq war have demonstrated that political and social change and regional conflict do not automatically produce Soviet gains.

Middle Eastern leaders have an interest in US strength to support the pluralistic world that would preserve their independence. They still fear the threat of Soviet domination.

• The US has an interest in relating cooperatively to the forces of constructive change within the Middle East. Revolution in Iran, for instance, may have been essential for the Iranian people in some form. This question is whether reform could have been achieved without tearing Iranian society apart and making Iran's independence more vulnerable. Whatever the answer, US interests suffered a sharp setback because it did not relate constructively to the forces of change.

While lower oil prices have caused rejoicing in some quarters, that could well prove shortsighted if political and social upheaval threatens the stability of key oil-producing states.

The current decline of oil revenues raises the specter of instability in other societies if they are unable to manage politically the necessary cutbacks in their development spending. While lower oil prices have caused rejoicing in some quarters, that could well prove shortsighted if political and social upheaval threatens the stability of key oil-producing or strategically important states like Saudi Arabia or Egypt.

The US can contribute much to eco-

nomie progress. Middle Eastern development planners want US technology, managerial participation and equipment. It is still an open question whether the US can relate successfully to changes in political institutions and leadership.

The Soviet Union has a reputation for exploiting social and political upheavals. The US Declaration of Independence, however, comes closer than Moscow-centered control to stating the aspirations of mankind. When the US is effectively pursuing peace and human rights while preserving its military strength, its influence will not decline over the long term.

• US presidents since 1948 have reaffirmed the US commitment to the security of an Israel dedicated to a compromise settlement in Palestine and to living at peace with its neighbors. Israel's steady expansion of control over the West Bank and Gaza and its 1982 inva-

readiness to negotiate peace with Israel. But Jordan's King Hussein has discussed it intensively with President Reagan, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and with other Arab leaders. The Reagan "fresh start" suffered a setback in April when King Hussein and the PLO failed to agree on a mutually satisfactory strategy, but it is not dead. The credibility of US ability to persuade Arab leaders to declare readiness to negotiate peace and to persuade Israel to respond positively.

The US is widely seen as having at least given silent acquiescence to Israel's invasion of Lebanon. But the US alone is seen as capable of negotiating both withdrawal of all foreign forces—including Soviet allies—and a framework for restoring the Lebanese government's authority over all Lebanon. Early completion of a withdrawal agreement coupled with progress toward negotiations on an Arab-Israeli-Palestinian settlement would enhance US ability to influence events.

• US and free-world interest in the steady flow of Middle East oil should be protected by the decline in prices and the producers' need to sell. At the same time, any instability resulting from the decline in revenues, particularly in Saudi Arabia, could jeopardize the flow of oil.

In short, the Middle East could in the mid-1980s move in directions that would negatively affect US interests, but the US still has an opportunity to remain the key actor in the area.

Harold H. Saunders is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He was assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, 1978-1981.

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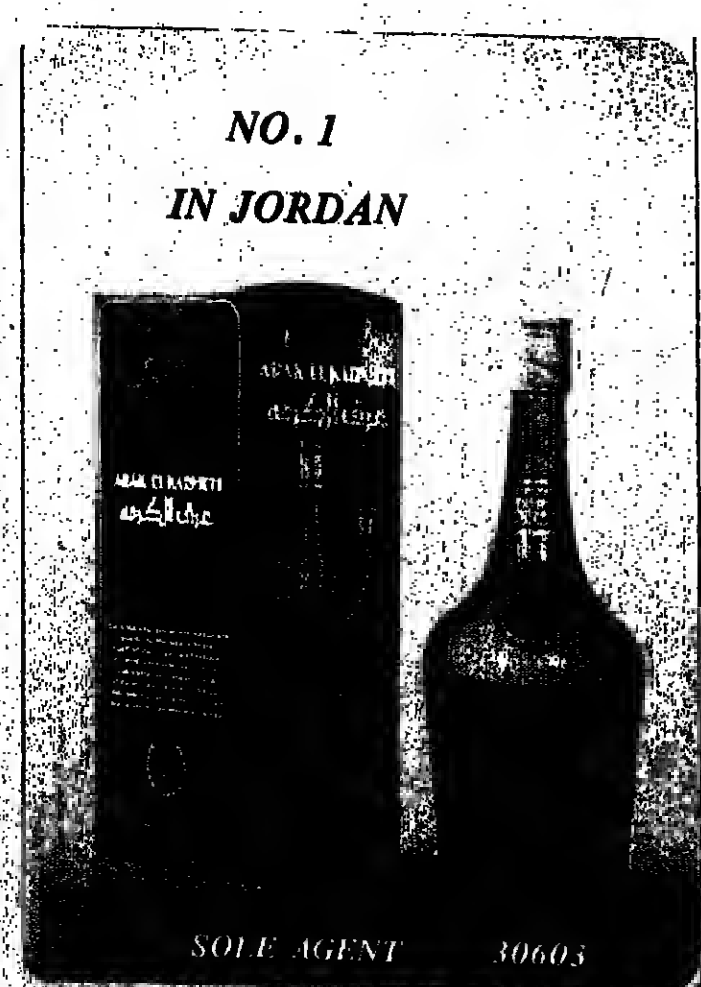
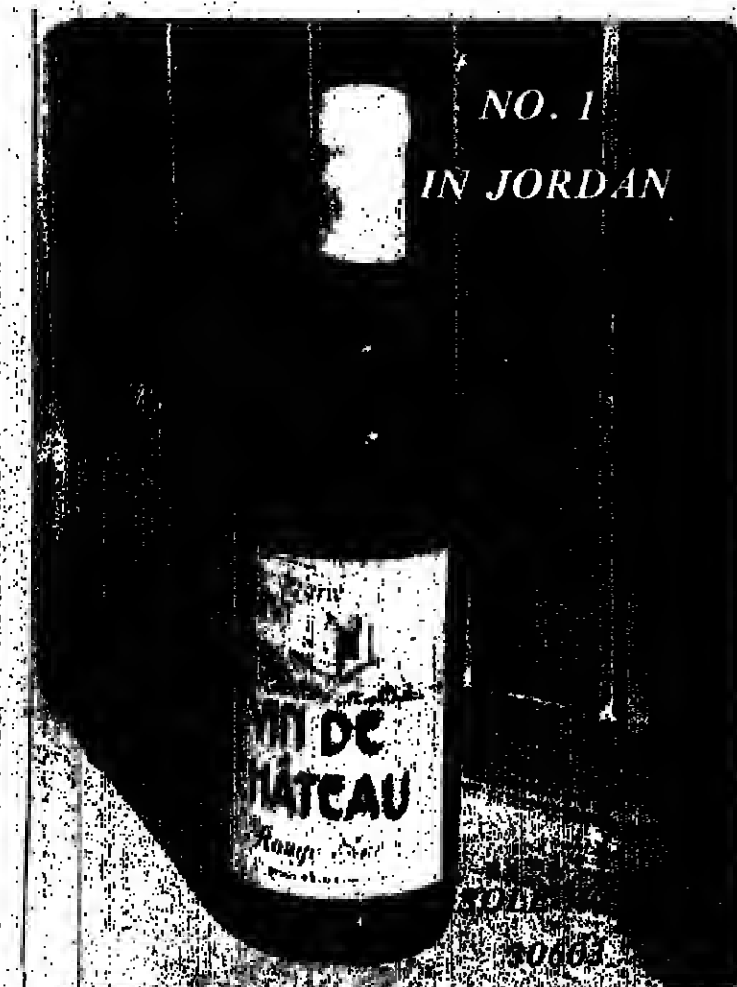
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DAVID BECOMES GOLIATH

PLO: Peace requires tolerance, not force

By Hatem I. Hussaini
Special to WorldPaper

NEW YORK—The early founders of the Zionist movement argued that a Jewish state in Palestine would serve the interests of the superpowers. In the early 1900s, Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann stressed that by supporting the establishment of the Jewish state the interests of both the Ottoman and British Empires in the Middle East would be served. They expected Israel to become a superior military power, dependent on Western military aid and thus able to serve Western colonial and imperial interests.

Although humanitarian Jews such as Albert Einstein and Martin Buber warned against the consequences of this kind of a nationalist military Jewish state, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, went ahead and helped create an Israeli society based on military preparedness, organization and quick mobilization.

The 1956 war showed that Israel functioned as a military force to serve the interests of the British and the French. By 1967, Israel began to depend on American military aid, and it viewed itself as a military outpost to combat Soviet influence in the Middle East.

This description of Israel as a military superpower that can serve American interests was stressed most recently by Prime Minister Menachem Begin and General Ariel Sharon. They both asked for more American military aid to maintain Israeli military superiority and to

help Israel emerge as a deterrent power to Soviet influence in the Middle East.

This idea of a militarily superior Israel has been fully accepted by the Reagan administration. President Reagan and his advisers view Israel as a dependable military ally that could strike against hostile forces in the Middle East. The 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon proves this case. The Reagan administration justified this invasion because it thought Israel was striking at what is called a "terrorist group" supported by the Soviet Union. This case was forcefully argued by Israeli officials to gain American support for the invasion of Lebanon. Without American military and political support, Israel would not have been able to invade Lebanon and fight for three-and-a-half months.

The Zionist Israeli argument is based on the logic of military might and the law of the jungle. It is the arrogance of power and it will lead to further wars and conflict in the Middle East. Both the Roman and British Empires used the same logic in attempting to control the Middle East through sheer military power. But history clearly shows the limits of military power and the decline of the states based on sheer military superiority.

Israel is no exception. It cannot remain forever as a military garrison dependent on brute force to survive. It will ultimately decline and disintegrate, and in its place will emerge a more humane society based on coexistence. Moreover, American interests cannot be protected by military garrison states and outposts. American interests will be served through mutual respect and equal dialogue and discussion. Thus, American military support of Israel will not last forever. In the long run, the American people will reject this military equation between the US and Israel and will opt for a genuine and real peace in the Middle East based on tolerance and equality among people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds.

Hatem I. Hussaini is deputy permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization Mission to the United Nations.



THE PALESTINIAN DIASPORA
Palestinians resident in the Middle East

THE West Bank Palestinians, like the Jews before World War II, are a stateless people. It was, in fact, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 that simultaneously ended the Jewish diaspora and marked the onset of that of the Palestinians.

At the turn of the century, that part of the Ottoman Empire known as Palestine covered what is today Israel and Jordan. When the empire was broken up by the allies during World War I, Great Britain assumed control of Palestine. As early as 1917, in what is called the Balfour Declaration, Britain promised the Jews that they would eventually have their own homeland.

Two months after the League of Nations formally gave Britain a mandate over Palestine in 1922, Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill created the state of Transjordan out of the 80 percent of Palestine that lay to the east of the Jordan River.

Prince Abdullah, grandfather of the current King Hussein, was installed as a semi-autonomous ruler.

Amid growing violence west of the Jordan River, the British pulled

	US State Dept. estimate	P.L.O. estimate
JORDAN	1,000,000	1,160,800
WEST BANK	700,000	818,300
ISRAEL	500,000	530,000
GAZA STRIP	450,000	476,700
LEBANON	400,000	600,000
KUWAIT	320,000	278,800
SYRIA	250,000	215,500
SAUDI ARABIA	—	127,000
IRAQ	120,000	20,000
EGYPT	60,000	48,500
U.A.E.	40,000	34,700
QATAR	20,000	22,500
LIBYA	15,000	23,000

out in 1948, and the Jewish National Council immediately proclaimed the State of Israel. An estimated 400,000 Palestinians fled to Jordan as Egyptian and Jordanian forces attacked the new state. Another wave of Palestinians crossed the river to Jordan during the 1967 war, bringing the West Bank Palestinian population to approximately 50 percent of the total population.

King Hussein welcomed both waves of refugees, and Jordan became the center for Palestinian resistance to Israeli presence on the West Bank.

For a little more than a decade, the PLO conducted operations from their bases in Lebanon. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer, however, decimated the PLO and their forces were dispersed to various Arab countries.

President Reagan's peace plan proposes creating a Palestinian "entity" on the West Bank in confederation with Jordan. Israel and the PLO alike have resisted this solution—Israel because it wants to keep the West Bank for security reasons, and the PLO because it insists on a fully sovereign state.

As for Egypt itself, while its oil loss totaled some 250 million Egyptian pounds (US\$357.5 million) this year, the loss will be doubled next year as a result of the drop in oil prices. However, all is not bleak, according to Mr. Waguah Shukri, Egyptian minister for investment. Exports, for example, have increased about double those for the same period last year, and hard currency deposits Egyptian banks from overseas workers showed no decline this year.

Dr. Muatafa Said, Egypt's minister of economics, advances the following proposals to meet the sharp drop in oil prices:

- Depend on Egypt's natural resources
- Reduce imports to the minimum and increase exports to the maximum
- Negotiate long-term loans in order to ease the Egyptian economy (Lebanon currently total \$14 billion dollars)
- Encourage production and investment in the industrial sector, rather than ports via the commercial sector
- Prospect extensively for more oil production next year will be three million

Jordan assesses loss of petrodollars

By Jawad Anani
Special to WorldPaper

AMMAN—Jordan's economy is inextricably tied to the Gulf oil-producing states. With a relatively narrow resource base and a small market of its own, the economy is by its very nature sensitive to external factors.

The inflationary wave that hit the world in the seventies, for example, washed over Jordan's borders along with its imports, which amount to about 80 percent of its gross domestic product. Jordan's economy, obviously, is even more sensitive to changes closer to home.

Without question, Jordan's achievements over the past decade could not have been accomplished without petrodollars. The issue is not a moral one, for Jordan earned whatever she got. The question is the degree to which it will be affected by the decline in oil revenues.

The official aid that Jordan currently receives is barely 20 percent of the aid agreed upon in 1978 at the Baghdad Summit Conference. (After King Hussein's rejection of the 1978 Egyptian-Israeli peace initiatives, the Arab states pledged a total of \$1 billion a year for ten years.) Since then, Libya and Algeria have paid only a nominal amount, and now it is doubtful whether Iraq will be able to resume payments due to the heavy war burdens it is currently shouldering.

As for other Gulf countries, their total earnings, despite the reduction in oil prices in 1983, are still higher than in 1978. Thus, a decrease in their aid to Jordan, knowing what Jordan's security means to them, is unthinkable.

Jordan's balance of payments would show very large deficits were it not for this official aid and the remittances sent home by Jordanian overseas workers. In 1982, Jordan received about JD 218 million (JD 1=US\$2.78) from the Arab Gulf states and worker remittances exceeded JD 350 million. The total amount helped not only to bridge the payments deficit but also to realize some surplus.

It is difficult to assess the effect of reduced oil revenues on the earnings that Jordanians working abroad will be sending home. Since they usually occupy no more than this year. Oil is vital for Egypt's industry, which absorbs 85 percent of domestic production.

Develop alternate sources of energy to oil, such as natural gas, biogas, coal, electricity and solar energy. Plans are also underway to raise the capacity of crude oil refining.

The petroleum industry aims to raise oil refining and processing capacities both to cover domestic requirements and to achieve an export surplus on world markets. Long-term plans anticipate the construction of refineries in different parts of the country where consumption is expected to rise.

So for Egypt, the picture painted by reduced oil prices is not as dark as might have been expected. The country is used to facing decisive problems in its relations with both the East and the West. For the Middle Eastern countries as a whole, however, recovery will need more time and serious long-term planning.

Mohamed al Biali is former editor in chief of the Middle East News Agency.

table positions and earn relatively high wages, it is doubtful that there would be any serious changes. But that will depend to some extent on the wage and employment policies of the host countries, and on decisions by the workers themselves. Overseas laborers probably will increase the portion of their pay that goes to relatives and lower the portion available for investment.

Jordan currently enjoys full employment and hosts more than 120,000 laborers from abroad. Most non-Jordanian laborers are here on a temporary basis at work on projects under foreign contractors. Once the projects are completed, it is expected that the laborers will leave.

More than 50 percent of Jordan's agricultural exports have been directed to the Gulf region. Moreover, Jordan's exports of light industry goods have gone primarily to Iraq and to a lesser extent to Saudi Arabia and some others. Many manufacturing firms producing such goods as plastics, paints, clothes, and so on, developed over the last seven years in response to the high demand in the Gulf for these products. Any changes in these exports—with the exception of those directed to Iraq, which has adopted drastic austerity measures—would depend not on oil but on the extent to which these countries decide to rely more on their own output.

Currently there is a lull in the sale of consumer goods in Jordan, with shopkeepers, for example, complaining of slim sales. Some probably have overstocked and others may have been forced by competition to cut prices. In Jordan's history, such consumer response is usual and to be expected in times of political uncertainty.

Jordan's overhyped economy may do better if construction, imports, employment and inflation are somewhat lower—a very likely trend with a decrease in oil revenues. Yet too sharp a decline will adversely affect the economy. That is likely to show up sometime after mid-1984, which gives the country a year's grace period in which to make adjustments. In 1974, with less potential than it has now, Jordan was able to override the 1969-71 slump.

So, without meaning to sound too hopeful, I believe that while a decline in oil revenues could prove cumbersome to the Jordanian economy, it certainly will not be critical. The last drop in the price of Saudi oil by US\$5 a barrel meant a decrease in Jordan's import bill of US\$90 million. This is the other side of oil price reductions that must be taken into account.

Dr. Jawad Anani is an economist and Jordanian minister of labor.

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Major exports: diamonds, chemicals

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Major exports: Phosphates, vegetables

LEBANON

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Per capita income: \$1,234
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Major exports: financial paper and stamps

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Major export: oil

SYRIA

Population: 10,000,000
Per capita income: \$1,228
Major trading partners: Italy, Iraq
Major exports: oil, cotton

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

Iran's war with Iraq has apparently turned in Iran's favor, though not without heavy losses. Khomeini faces serious economic problems at home, largely because of reduced oil output, and domestic unrest. The 82-year-old leader has been in ill health, and no clear successor has as yet emerged.

Saddam Hussein

President Hussein has staked his position on the outcome of the war with Iran. He has received a great deal of encouragement and financial assistance from the rest of the Arab world, but little actual military help. Hussein's major problem has been to prevent the rising costs of the war from breeding discontent at home.

Menachem Begin

Having survived domestic outrage at the massacres in Lebanon last September, Prime Minister Begin's position now seems fairly secure. But Begin's Likud party, which maintains power only through an uneasy coalition with five smaller parties, faces growing opposition from the Labour Party, led by Shimon Peres. Begin also has faced increasing criticism from the United States over his policies in Lebanon and the West Bank.

Ballot Declaration by British administrators of Palestine promises the Jews a homeland.

1945: The Arab League is formed at a March 22 meeting in Cairo for the purpose of economic cooperation and opposition to the establishment of Israel. Original members are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Great Britain turns the problem of Palestine over to the United Nations. On Nov. 29, the UN votes for partition to create a Jewish state in Palestine.

Without waiting for UN action, Great Britain withdraws from Palestine at the end of its mandate on May 14. The Jewish National Council immediately proclaims the State of Israel. Palestinians flee the area, most of them settling in Jordan. On May 15, Egypt and Jordan invade Israel.

Ceasefire in the Arab-Israeli war takes effect Jan. 7. Israel has increased its original territory by 50 percent.

Gen. Mohammed Naguib leads successful coup against King Farouk of Egypt.

Gamal Abdul Nasser, leader of military junta in Egypt, assumes power.

Egypt nationalizes the Suez canal on July 26 and bars Israeli shipping. Great Britain, France and Israel attack Egypt. The United States condemns the invasion and, after the arrival of a UN Emergency Task Force, the three nations withdraw their forces.

Egypt and Syria form the United Arab Republic, from which Syria will withdraw in 1961.

Iraqi monarchy is overthrown by General Kassem on July 14. American marines land in Beirut.

The Palestine Liberation Organization is founded at a meeting of the Palestinian Congress.

The Six Day War breaks out on June 5 after Egypt closes the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping. Israel quickly defeats the Egyptians, and occupies the Sinai Peninsula and Jerusalem. Israel's victory sparks radicalization of the PLO.

United Nations passes Resolution 242, calling for secure and recognized borders between Israel and Arab states and for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Nasser dies on Sept. 28, and Anwar Sadat assumes the presidency of Egypt.

The Yom Kippur War begins on Oct. 6, when Egypt and Syria attack Israel. Arab states embargo shipments of oil to the United States and Europe.

Arab League members declare the PLO to be the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." The United Nations General Assembly votes that Palestinians should be allowed to return to the West Bank. The PLO is given permanent observer status at the UN.

The Lebanese civil war erupts on April 13 with fighting between Christians, Lebanese Muslims and Palestinians.

Camp David accords are signed by Egypt and Israel on Sept. 17.

Israel and Egypt sign peace treaty March 16. Arab League responds with a diplomatic and economic boycott of Egypt.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini takes power in Iran following the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Militants seize hostages at the United States embassy on Nov. 4.

Iraq invades Iran on Sept. 22, beginning a war that continues today.

Israel, claiming that Iraq is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, destroys an Iraqi nuclear plant with an air strike on June 8.

President Sadat of Egypt is assassinated on Oct. 6. Hosni Mubarak becomes president.

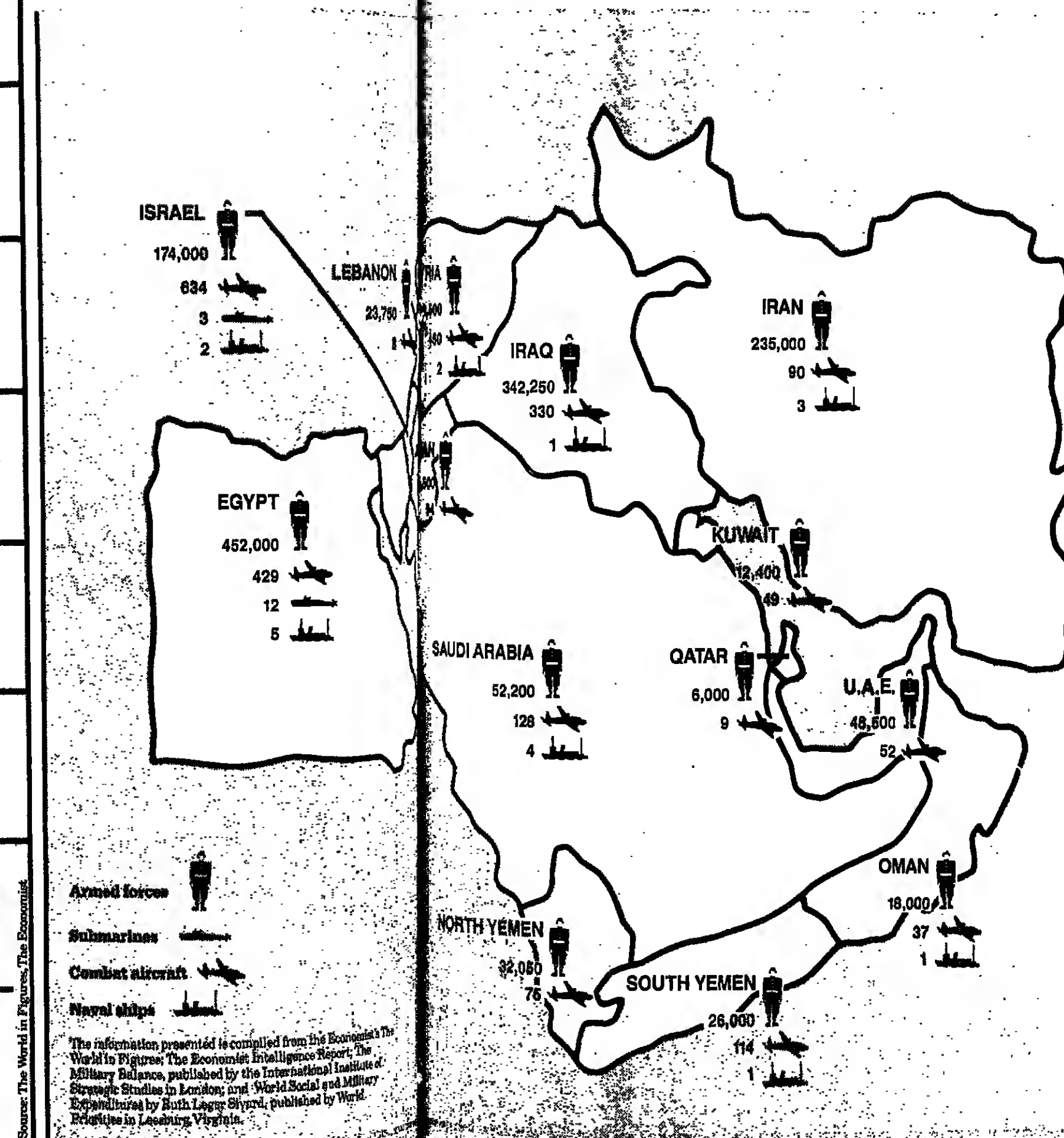
Israeli forces invade southern Lebanon to attack PLO bases on June 6.

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia dies on June 13 and is succeeded by King Fahd.

Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel is assassinated in Beirut on Sept. 14. On Sept. 16-18, Christian militia forces massacre Palestinian civilians in Shatila and Sabra camps outside Beirut. Amin Gemayel, Bashir's brother, is elected president.

Lebanese and Israeli negotiators first meet in Khaldi outside Beirut on Dec. 28.

The Middle East at a glance



Amin Gemayel

At 40 years of age when he took over the presidency last year, Gemayel is the youngest of leaders in the Middle East. He also faces some of the worst problems. To unify his war-ravaged country, Gemayel knows he must arrive at some sort of understanding with Israel, but he must also be very careful not to lose the support of Arab states. This will not be an easy task, particularly since Lebanon is still torn by factional infighting.

King Fahd

King Fahd heads a Saudi royal family that rules largely by consensus. Its immense oil wealth has thrust Saudi Arabia into a pivotal role in the region, though its economic power is not matched by its military abilities. The major concerns of the royal family have been internal development and maintenance of Saudi Arabia's historical role as the preeminent "keeper of the flame" of Islam.

Hafez al-Assad

Assad has strongly backed Iran in its war with Iraq, in spite of long-standing ties to Iraq. Assad faces significant opposition at home, and has occasionally had to resort to severe measures to maintain domestic order. Under Assad, Syria has maintained up to 30,000 troops in Lebanon.

Illustrations by Eric Orner

Handwritten note in a box: "The Middle East at a glance"

Diversity is the strength and weakness of the nonaligned



By Arun Chacko
Associate Editor
in South Asia

NEW DELHI—The "nonaligned movement" embraces just about every shade of political opinion, ranging from the communism of Cuba and Vietnam to the capitalism of Singapore and Malaysia. In fact, the group divides up into three main political camps: about 20 countries led by Cuba, 20 led by Singapore and 60 to 65 in between led by India, Yugoslavia and Algeria. The controversies these causes were all too evident in March, when 101 delegates, including some 60 heads of state, gathered for the Seventh Nonaligned Meeting in New Delhi.

As President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka said at the meeting, "We represent an astonishing range of political ideologies, a diversity of social, economic and political systems, and a rich variety of religions and cultures." This diversity generates its own tensions, leading to problems of unity and identity and ultimately to the movement's effectiveness.

When originally set up in the early sixties as a protective umbrella against the machinations of the power blocs, the non-aligned movement was manageable. Twenty-five representatives of considerable stature and similar outlook—Yugoslavia's Tito, Egypt's Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno, India's Nehru and Ghana's Nkrumah—first gathered at Belgrade in 1961 to sow the seeds of what is becoming a somewhat unmanageable tree.

Every nonaligned summit seems to have one issue that generates much heat, not so much for the issue itself but as an excuse for superpower supporters to confront each other. In Havana it was the proposed expulsion of founder member Egypt for signing the Camp David agreement. This time it was over who should claim the vacant Kampuchean seat.

The seating of the appropriate Kampuchean delegation—whether the current Vietnamese-installed government or Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Democratic Kampuchea, which is a front for the discredited former Pol Pot regime—dominated the foreign ministers meeting preceding the summit. As usual the fight was less about the rights and wrongs of individual claims than about control of the nonaligned movement. But it could have jeopardized the actual summit.

Individual positions reflected the side of the fence on which countries sat, though in this nonaligned body the most appropriate position naturally would have been on the fence itself. Led by ASEAN nations like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, backed by such diverse supporters as Yugoslavia and Pakistan, the anti-Soviet side came out strongly for seating Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Democratic Kampuchea. The other side was equally adamant about seating the existing Heng Samrin regime. In the end, those in favor of continuing to leave the seat vacant, led by India, had their way.

The movement's preparatory meeting in Managua last January drafted a document that both virulently attacked the US and virtually aligned the movement behind the Soviet Union. While Yugoslavia, India and others succeeded in moderating the tone, they could not erase



the document's anti-Western and pro-Soviet bias. But Mrs. Gandhi's chairmanship has reassured even hard-line states like Singapore of greater impartiality.

Singapore was one of the most adamant critics of the pro-Soviet bias and has been at odds with India over several foreign policy issues. Its Deputy Prime Minister S. Rajaratnam provocatively has assessed the nonaligned movement: "Its past is one of which we can be justly proud," he declared. "Its present condition however does it no credit. And finally, if it persists in its present course, its future will be one of shameful oblivion."

Referring to "the threat of the possible enslavement of the movement by one of

zuelan membership because of its border disputes are the most recent cases in point.

Despite such difficulties, the New Delhi conference was a reasonable success in some ways. Opinion was near unanimous on nuclear disarmament, the Palestinian issue, independence for Namibia, and the right of self-determination in South Africa. Contentious political issues like Afghanistan or Kampuchea were skirted or put off to a later date. But their shadows linger.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt put his finger on the problem when he told the assembly: "The unity of the non-aligned movement is the secret of its power and efficacy. Without this unity,

"The destruction or enslavement of the nonaligned movement has always been the objective of both the superpowers... In picking on the Soviet Union, I am not exonerating the other superpower."

—Sinnathamby Rajaratnam

the superpowers," Mr. Rajaratnam added. "The destruction or enslavement of the nonaligned movement has always been the objective of both the superpowers... The fulsome praise and regard the Soviets have shown does not stem from a genuine respect for and belief in non-alignment, but springs from an understandable concern to preserve the good name of an establishment they intended taking over...."

"In picking on the Soviet Union, I am not exonerating the other superpower from entertaining equally hostile attitudes and ambitions towards the movement," he continued. "But as of now, I see no evidence of a United States bid to hijack the movement. As far as I know, nobody has been bold enough or mad enough to float the counter idea of the United States as the 'natural ally' of the nonaligned movement."

Another complicating factor is that nonaligned membership hardly has helped to solve bilateral disputes. Some 135 wars have been fought by 85 countries since World War II. Barring Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, all these wars have been between Third World countries—mostly between the nonaligned. The verbal battles in New Delhi between Iran and Iraq, or Guyana's blocking Vene-

the movement would become a mere quantitative accumulation, unable to become a qualitative structure, thereby turning into a prototype of the international organizations existing within the framework of acute conflict and competition. Its influence would therefore diminish, its role would recede, its ability to steer events would erode, and its independent character and distinct identity would melt away."

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar bluntly told his distinguished audience that unless the nonaligned nations both regain their unity and become truly independent from both East and West, there never will be solutions to the world's great problems, only confrontations. Given his Third World and UN background—which he has seen become, increasingly, impotent because of partisan attitudes—his voice carried weight.

Whatever her personal predilections, India's Indira Gandhi, the meeting's chairman, tried to steer the movement back to a fairly central course. Even though her denial that the final document was tilted against the US was a bit thin, she did rescue the movement from the blatantly pro-Soviet bias it acquired during the preceding chairmanship of Cuban President Fidel Castro. (The final

political document criticized the United States by name in at least eleven places, mainly over its Latin American and Middle East roles, and glossed over Soviet intervention in Afghanistan through its proxies, in Vietnam.)

This time, however, President Castro did not try to suggest the Soviet Union was the "natural ally" of the movement as he did in Havana in a somewhat less than attempt to hijack the movement in Moscow. Needless to say, that attempt backfired with a vengeance.

The balance injected by increasing moderate influences is most evident in the economic document, where the cause-and-demand approach toward the West was dropped in favor of a more reasonable one. Many participants realize that at a time of recession and increasing conservatism, no other approach is likely to cut any ice with the "haves."

The economic document called for global negotiations within the United Nations of a new international economic order, and the restructuring of both the world monetary system and the \$40 billion collective debt of developing nations. It favored expanded lending programs from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, fewer restrictions on exports to developed countries and more food assistance and energy development programs.

"Never before have the economic fortunes of the developed and developing nations been so closely linked together," stated. "Yet many of the rich nations of this world are turning in the midst of a common crisis to the catastrophic policies of the 1920s and 1930s, rather than to enlightened multilateralism."

A growing membership and diversity would militate against unity in the non-aligned movement in the best of times. Day the problem is aggravated by the absence of any towering political leader who are widely accepted within the Third World. There is no Nasser, Nehru or any more. Nehru's daughter, chairman for the next four years, is hardly in the same league.

But the main problem facing the majority of nonaligned countries is economic, and access to adequate funds is crucial. The source of such funds, and control over them, lies in the industrialized world. Western countries are unwilling to fork out money for nonaligned trise who constantly attack them.

A Washington Post editorial after the summit was an unmistakable pointer to the dangers of bias. "This nonaligned movement is like the United Nations only more so," it read. "Evidently, by one another's company, member governments seem to feel liberated—and liberated to attack the United States on the fashionable political issues of the day, notwithstanding the unfairness, irrelevance or unhelpfulness of the attacks."

"These same governments," it continued, "then put out their hand and ask the United States for money. There is a point in getting too stirred up about the familiar pattern, although it would be interesting to have explained some day why it is that a nation consigned to the darkness for its alleged political crimes can be expected to have the enlightenment and selflessness to recognize the users just economic needs."

The crucial need for the nonaligned movement remains a greater unity in distinguishing between the powers. Undoubtedly, the vast majority of member states have never subscribed to the "natural ally" theory. And more even-handed. That can be a guarantee for the movement's survival.

Refugees testify so 'the world will not forget Afghanistan'

By Sven Egil Omdal
Special to WorldPaper

OSLO—When Farida Ahmadi, a 22-year-old medical student, was arrested in Kabul on a chilly April day in 1981 while she was reading a news bulletin from the resistance movement, she couldn't possibly have imagined the horrors she was going to face during the following months. But when she told her story to the International Afghanistan Hearing in Oslo, Norway, this spring, she left nothing to the imagination of the hundreds of politicians, researchers and reporters present.

"Three nights in a row I was forced to sit in a dimly lit corridor in front of a table full of hands, feet and eyes that had been cut off from, or torn out of, other prisoners. The walls were covered with blood. One of my torturers asked if it didn't affect me to see these body parts. I answered: 'Bring everybody here, so they can see your revolution.'"

For weeks, she said, they tried to soften her up by playing Russian music hour after hour, a little bit louder every day until it suddenly stopped—and the physical torture began. "I had to stand up for two weeks without ever being able to sit down. After while my feet couldn't carry me anymore, and I started to fall, but they grabbed me and forced me back on my feet. After some time I would have preferred even electric torture," she told the inquiry panel.

"The main aim of this hearing is to show the Soviet Union that the world will not forget Afghanistan," explained Bjørn Storrang, the chairman of the hearing. Storrang, a member of the Norwegian Conservative Party and the youngest MP in Norway, says that a detailed report about the hearing has been presented by the Norwegian foreign minister to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

The report is based on the eyewitness statements and expert analyses given during the hearing and reads like a catalogue of atrocities and inhuman behavior. That, destruction of homes and burning of harvests are all the order of the day in occupied Afghanistan. An estimated one million people have died so far in the war, and approximately another three million have been forced to leave their homes and now live as refugees, either in nearby Pakistan or in their own country.

But despite this, political experts agree that the Soviet Union has not won the war and that this is a new experience for the Kremlin. Their last invasion, of Czechoslovakia in 1968, was a victory with no fight. Now they are caught up in a seemingly endless and extremely expensive war. And whatever expectations they might have that they will be able to crush the resistance, the witnesses at the hearing in Oslo left no doubt that the expectations are by no means as

high. "The Russians are not going to have a final solution. If they want a final solution, they'll have to kill us

Top: Farida Ahmadi (right) and Dorr Moxammad were two of the witnesses at the International Afghanistan Hearing held in Oslo this spring. Below: Nasir Ahmad-Forouki, responding to the questions of the panel of experts, gives an account of atrocities he witnessed in Afghanistan.



Photos by Lars O. Fjvæl

he said, "and it is hard to understand why the refugees should all lie."

The report from the hearing presented to the UN does not discuss the possible use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, but some of the statements at the hearing hinted that such weapons have been used. Abdul Wahed, another witness, said that he had seen Soviet planes drop bombs that divided into small boxes when they hit the ground. Out of each box came a thick, light blue smoke that caused nausea and dizziness.

"Many of the guerrilla soldiers were not able to eat for days, the tears wouldn't stop running, and we had problems with pronouncing even the simplest words. Whether this was a chemical weapon or not, you can decide for yourselves, but to me it doesn't matter very much whether I'm killed by a Russian bullet or Russian gas," he said.

Sven Egil Omdal is a journalist with *Vårt Land*, in Oslo.

all," Farida Ahmadi said.

The panel of experts that questioned the witnesses at the hearing concluded that the accounts given must be considered reliable. Jens A. Christophersen, assistant professor of political science at the

University of Oslo, said that it has been proven that the Norwegian refugees who came to Sweden during World War II gave accurate information about the situation in their home country. "We have a very similar situation in Afghanistan today,"

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Handwritten note: "The FSI is the best!"

China's favorite comedian

By He Zhou
Special to WorldPaper

BEIJING—He's "ugly" by his own admission. His narrow eyes framed by bushy brows and high cheekbones give him both a teasing and a stubborn look. On stage he usually wears a custom-tailored, dark-blue Mao suit that makes him look like just another high-ranking official. But a bureaucrat he most assuredly is not.

Hou Baolin is China's most famous practitioner of xiangsheng, which literally means "face and voice," the Chinese version of a stand-up comic routine performed by a "joke cracker" and a "straight man." Sixty-six-year-old Hou has practiced this ancient art of humor and pointed satire since the 1940s. By now, his raspy voice and sure fire have been broadcast and televised in the furthest corners of China, and he has unquestionably become a tacit member of every Chinese family, with a nationwide fame "no smaller than the premier's and bigger than a minister's," as he once joked.

Any Chinese can immediately tell a couple of his jokes.

"I'm not as stupid as you think!" he protests in one of his best-known routines. "You want me to climb up the beam from your flashlight, eh? I know what you've got in mind! When I'm halfway up, you'll turn off the light and I'll fall down."

Hou's art is backed by a 2000-year-old tradition, but he has brought to it a variety of "reforms," such as professional



Sixty-six-year-old Hou Baolin (left) performs for coal miners.

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Even the implacable Red Guards could not avoid being trapped by Hou's humor. Once, it is said, when some Red Guards were holding a "struggle session" of vio-

lence against Hou for alleged "counter-revolutionary crimes," he provoked a burst of laughter and literally disarmed the rebels by saying in a deadpan voice: "I confess! I confess! The monstrous crime was mine—I started World War II."

Hou has not been spoiled by his success. He was appointed vice-president of the Chinese Ballad Singers Association and deputy to the National People's Congress, but recently decided to retire from both posts to make room for younger artists. When he stepped down, Beijing University hired him as a language professor, an honor recognizing his contributions to spoken Chinese.

Hou himself received little formal education—in total of three months in a primary school for the poor. His "enlightenment" came mostly from his stepfather, a chef who taught him to recite sing-song verses like this one: "twisted roll, steamed pie, fruit pie with sugar rose high." He taught himself to read and write, and his list of favorite books includes those typically favored by Chinese intellectuals: the works of Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, George Bernard Shaw, and Mark Twain. His favorite foreign comedian was Charlie Chaplin.

Hou has published several selections of xiangsheng routines and co-authored two books—An Historical Study of Xiangsheng and A Brief Introduction to Ballad Singing. The targets of his jokes are people who flout the standards of public conduct, who "make their own regulations" or who are insensitive to what the administration considers the public good. Laughter is a mostly—gentle rod for those who don't conform.

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WorldPaper interview

Why schools for women only?

For 18 years, Dr. Ogiell Kim was president of the world's largest women's university, Ewha Womans University, in Korea. Later as minister of education, she briefly served as Korea's first woman cabinet member.

Dr. Kim has been unyielding in her defense of university autonomy in political and educational policies, and her support of progressive women's education was the hallmark of her administration.

Dr. Kim is best known outside Korea as a prominent leader of the international Christian community. In April of this year she received the highest honor from the Union Theological Seminary in the US, the Union prize, given previously to such figures as former US ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young. She was interviewed for WorldPaper by Dr. Soon Kwang Yoon, a former professor at Ewha Womans University in the Women's Studies Program and in the Department of Anthropology.

WorldPaper: Dr. Kim, for many years you were president of the largest women's university in the world, a private Christian university. There is a view in many developing countries that the era of private women's colleges is over; that the modern era should have co-educational schools or an expansion of private non-Christian schools. What are your views on that?

Well, I say that private schools are always necessary and they have to stand on principles and ideas of their own. But why, you ask, a school for women only?

For a long time in Korea, during the Japanese occupation, men and women's schools were entirely separate. And the middle schools and high schools still are separate. But after liberation in 1945, all the boys' schools began to accept girl students so now all except a few women's schools are co-educational.

Everybody should be in the same situation. The girls can choose whether to go to the public schools, co-ed or women's institutions. I am always sorry for the boys because they don't have the same choice. They cannot go to a boys-only school even if they wish to.

Educational institutions ought to have, as I said before, certain principles to stand on, not just to move with the times, following the wind. So you say to the woman student, you stay where you are on your own ground to develop. That's a necessity.

Do you think that's particularly true because women need a chance to develop their own leadership?

In Korea women are always serving as vice-president. Always vice, vice, vice. Never taking full leadership on their own campus or classes, or any of these things. It's an onus. Leadership does not just come down from heaven, you have to practice it. You need experience, you just to conduct a meeting.

Let me broaden the discussion. As one of Korea's leading Christian leaders holding at the problem of unification of North and South Korea—and you are from the North, separated now from your family and your home life—as a Christian looking at the problem of unification, what do you think can be done?

As a Christian or not, the main desire of all the people of Korea is unification, you see. If you divide yourself with a strong knot at the middle of your body,



how can you live? That is just like the Korean situation. But despite the great need of reunification, we don't want to unify Korea by force. In the Bible it says if you

live by the sword you will die by the sword. Just like if you use force to unify, to do anything, then it's also destroyed by force. So I'm not active in anything since I retired, as I live in the countryside and so on, but I desire in my heart that we unify, yes, with the Christian spirit of love. It won't be a real unification as long as there is hatred and force, soldiers and guns. That's why it will take a long, long time.

In the unification process, do you think there is a possibility that there will be an awakening in the North to the same Christian idea?

Before the country was divided, Christianity was stronger in the North than in the South and the Christian seed of love, I'm sure, is strong underneath in North Korea. It just cannot come out. And, of

course, it's a closed society. If you see only the things they show you and you hear only the things they want you to hear, then the common people think that is the truth. But the real truth you cannot destroy. Just before I came here, a pilot came down from the North. He was born and raised after the Korean War, you see, so that means when we divided the country he got all his education and his indoctrination, yet there was a longing for liberty. And he came out of North Korea. So he came for liberty. So you cannot bury truth all the time.

People have sometimes said the same about the Japanese in Korea. That they took over all the ideology, all the schools, and made them Japanese.

Forced. Forced the Korean people to be like Japanese and to change the names and the manner and the language and everything. But while anything that comes from your heart will last long, what is achieved by force, when the force is gone, disappears.

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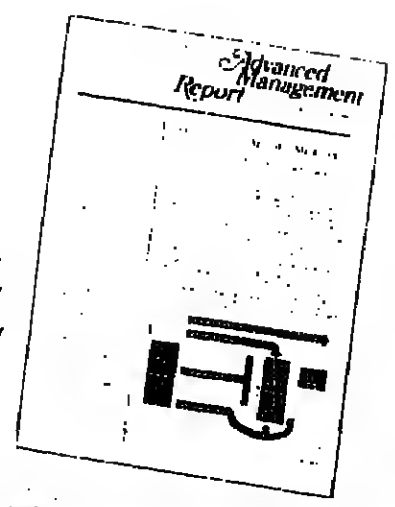
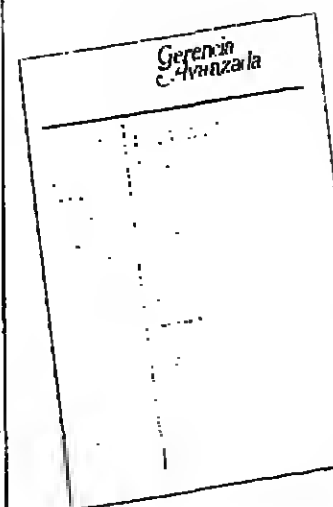
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Letters

THE HOMEMADE END

AMONG the many contradictions facing us today, one of the more ironic is the fact that science, that most secular activity, is making more and more likely that the mystics' predictions about the end of the world will finally come true.

Economically, as everyone by now already knows, we are in deep and serious trouble. Politicians have, by trade, to be optimistic. They always criticize the other party, but they have no doubt at all that their party has all the right answers. They deal with illusions, with public perceptions of what is important, but more and more they find themselves unable to grasp reality. Today, the only reality is that people all over the world, from the unemployed auto worker in Detroit to the rebellious Catholic in Poland to the undernourished peasant in Central America, are angry. More and more, a general distrust is being felt, and that is not good.

Afraid, not knowing what is going on, the politicians go looking for help. And there is nothing better to explain reality than a trained mind used to measurements and calculations. The economists are a blessing to the anxious politicians. Or at least they used to be. You could always count on some scholarly type to come up with some graphics and curves to prove your point, or to give you a new point on which a new policy would be based and, maybe, an election won.



But it seems to me that the entire gamut of ideas, graphics and curves has been tried, and things only get worse. The US has Reagan and his Rengannomics, France has the socialist Mitterrand, USSR has its central planning, the Third

World has the IMF, and all are in very serious trouble. Not only that, but nobody seems to know what to do about it. But even with this deepest of crises, the economists, those most arrogant and self-sufficient creatures, show no signs that some

slowly creeping doubts are beginning to be felt in their ever-perfect projection and measurements. And this is scary.

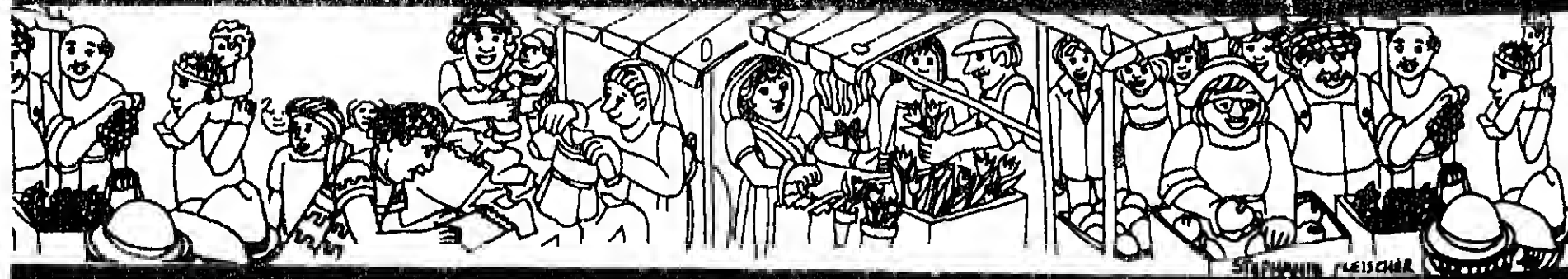
Left out in the open, the politicians, finding themselves without anything to hold on to—to "sell" to the people as the "new" way out—fall back, once again, on the old, ever present, ever reliable, probably the most basic of human emotions: fear. They start developing programs to arm their countries. It doesn't matter that the US social security is in trouble, or that Soviet agriculture is a failure, or that in Chile or Vietnam the resources would be more socially efficient if used to feed people instead of feeding the respective organizations. "They" are coming or matter who they are, and we should be prepared. It doesn't matter if in the process we chemically poisoned the environment, "disappear" with some innocent children or invade some foreign country. We must be alert, and the arms buildup must go on.

Until one day someone trips over the excessive armament, and everything is blown away. Of course, no harm was intended, it was just an accident. Maybe, insects, probably the only inheritors of all, will get the message.

The end of the world is not coming, as the prophets say. It is being built, right here, by human hands. It is the ultimate self-fulfilling prophecy.

—Janus Kurland
Austin, Tex.

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The China Syndrome

and Asia Atmospherics

Congressional candor

EYEBROWS all over Asia went up in early April—and mouths may have dropped open too—when the majority party leader of the US House of Representatives, "Tip" O'Neill, on his first trip to China declared that he hadn't known that the issue of Taiwan was such a big thing for the Chinese. People all over Asia seem not amused but rather astonished at this reflection of American insular ignorance. If the man who is the top elected Democrat and has held office in Washington for years, one whose son as lieutenant governor for the state of Massachusetts went to China twice to promote trade, does not have this elementary understanding of Chinese affairs, what, they wonder, can they expect of Washington officials overall.

O'Neill wasn't being disingenuous either. To a later position in Beijing, he acknowledged that he didn't know much about foreign affairs—and didn't care very much either. The insularity isn't easy to overcome. A five-term US Congressman from Colorado, Tim Wirth, was traveling in Asia at the same time during the Easter period. This was his first trip to the region, his eyebrows were raised by most everything he saw in Japan, China and Hong Kong. "It's been a tremendous education for me. It's unbelievable to see all this going on here," he enthused at a private party in Hong Kong. "To make intelligent judgments and votes on things that affect America and the whole world, we ought to be going abroad once or twice every year. But it's a Catch-22. I can't afford to myself. We haven't got the money or the time. And if it's an official trip, we're constantly berated by the press for taking junk like taxpayers' expense."

—Janus Kurland
Austin, Tex.



—Nakasona for Nakasona

Popular abroad, unpopular at home

This apparent dichotomy between being a politician who is dedicated domestically and suitably attuned internationally is a key one. And it's not uniquely American. It almost seems for many a statesman today that building sympathy and support overseas operates in inverse proportion to that existing at home.

Take Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasona for example. The Japanese have been worrying for years that their main man is a faceless figure in personality-prone Washington, and therefore cannot represent them well in their all important trade relations with the US. This has been true. Such past Japanese prime ministers as

Eisaku Sato, Takeo Fukuda, Masayoshi Ohira and Zenko Suzuki had about as much impact on Washington as Seiji Ozawa, the conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

So along comes Nakasona, a man of drive and decisiveness, traveling to South Korea first to offer \$4 billion in foreign aid, and then to Washington to talk up Japan's growing regional defense role as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier." This is the stuff of which overseas popularity is made. But Nakasona's very individuality and decisiveness has left him at home with the lowest ratings in the nation's ubiquitous public opinion polls of any prime minister in recent years—and his party with horrible showings in two recent bi-elections.

If there is a moral to this, it must be that charity begins at home, and style too, even in an interdependent world.

Finger to the wind

Recent travels to several countries uncovered some fresh atmospherics.

Seoul: With five years and the Los Angeles Summer Olympics still to go, the people of Seoul are already looking forward to their day in the athletic sun in 1988. Some 70 percent of the facilities are already said to be complete. Booster signs are visible in many places. The perennial problem of who is to pay the price is being addressed with a series of lotteries. The Koreans take great pride in being only the second Asian country to host the Olympics. And they say they're the first developing country ever, ignoring the fact that Japan in 1964 when she hosted the Olympics was certainly such a country.

Hong Kong: The fallout from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Beijing last fall is still filtering through to street level here. The question of what's to happen when China's lease of part of the land to Britain ends in 1997 is foremost in everyone's mind. Hong Kong real estate prices have plummeted in recent months, and many a foreign firm is considering moving south to Singapore. The city's most active street entrepreneurs, some of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from China, are the most alarmed by the possibilities of change. But this hasn't slowed the city's pace at all. It's a place where people run to catch the ceaseless Star Ferry just as fast as those in Tokyo to catch the subway, where the elevator doors in office buildings are timed to close faster than anywhere in the world and where commerce remains king to the degree that the Dow Jones stock averages from New York remain on the television screens along with the station call letters after the broadcast day ends.

Manila: More than ten years have passed since the imposition of martial law here. President and Mrs. Marcos still comprise the beginning and the end of most Filipino conversations. The belief is that no one can make a move without the Marcos's knowing about it, and endorsing it. This may not be technically true. But so long as the impression persists, it's just as good. A pithy example of this syndrome can be found in the taxi trade where the colorful jeepneys are slowly being phased out and where there's a new fleet of blue-and-white taxis to compete with the old yellow-and-black ones. The new ones are cleaner, air conditioned and more expensive. The old cabs cannot use their "air cons" even if they have them, and are fined heavily if they do. The new cabs are called Metro Manila. Mrs. Marcos is the governor of Metro Manila—and is widely believed to profit from this new arrangement that gives them the exclusive franchise over a cool ride in a hot city.

Singapore: The social control and discipline of the citizens of Singapore is an old story. Seat belts are more mandatory here than anywhere else, and special vouchers are needed to drive downtown during rush hour. Now water conservation has become a major campaign.

And I find it's no longer good form or even friendly at a Chinese banquet to pick up food in one's chopsticks and pass it on like a toast to someone else at the table, ala the late Chou En-lai in his courtly days in Beijing. Indeed, it's becoming decidedly bad form. "That's a real no-no now," I was told. "We're told it passes germs, it's not hygienic and we shouldn't do it." So much for fraternal eating. Tokyo: The Japanese are known for their diligence and earnestness more than their sense of humor. But a recent edition of the Mainichi Daily News, the English lan-

guage daily that is published by one of Tokyo's three major Japanese language papers, shows some fresh flair. A recent front page promoted a special section on the country of "Hara Kiri," spoofing the many national-day articles that are recognized in Tokyo's papers to attract government advertising.

The section included a tongue-in-cheek article about the fictitious country complete with some giveaway lines like: "In Mny, a fundamentalist revolution swept the country, but a papal visit followed by a Billy Graham revival followed by a Hindu Krishna invasion, followed by a Jerry Falwell Kill-a-Commie-for-Christ crusade left Hara Kirians a nation of emotional wrecks." The issue appeared on April 1, in honor of April Fools. The giveaway wasn't enough for the Tokyo head of the Bank of India, however, who called the Mainichi to inquire about Hara Kiri—because he couldn't find it on the map.

Sydney: Australians have been crying in their warm beer for some months now about the killer wave of economic problems, based on rising rates of unemployment and continued trade union demands. Just now there are some happy distractions, however, one politician, the other historical.

The country's new prime minister, Bob Hawke, is a maverick, a former trade unionist, who is the country's second Labor Party prime minister in 30 years. He is enjoying a bit of a honeymoon period right now after convening a first-of-its-kind summit conference recently for 300 government, business and labor leaders to try to reach some kind of Japanese-style consensus about how best to ride the killer wave. The meeting took place for four days in Canberra and attracted far more praise than cynicism on the part of the nation's snappy media lords and political cartoonists.

The other timely distraction for those Down Under is viewing the units of a man-made, life-sized, 2000-year-old array that was crafted by Chinese artisans to protect the tomb of the nation's first emperor Qin Shihuang. These warriors, part of the incredible discovery of 1974, are being exhibited in five cities of Australia to commemorate the tenth anniversary of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. They have captured the country's imagination as much as Bob Hawke. It's estimated that more than half the nation's 14 million people will have seen these term-cotta army figures by the time the exhibit completes its run in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.



Chinese troops in Australia

Dial-an-astronaut

Americans who want to get some vicarious thrills from the US space program need only dial a telephone number to listen in on live communications between the crew of the Challenger space probe and mission control in Houston, Texas. This latest example of "tuning in" is clearly designed to build public support for the expensive space program, and therefore congressional support as the annual funding requirements are considered. The ultimate perhaps in space-age lobbying.

China's favorite comedian

By Ho Zhou
Special to WorldPaper

BEIJING—He's "ugly" by his own admission. His narrow eyes framed by bushy brows and high cheekbones give him both a teasing and a stubborn look. On stage he usually wears a custom-tailored, dark-blue Mao suit that makes him look like just another high-ranking official. But a bureaucrat he most assuredly is not.

Hou Baolin is China's most famous practitioner of xiangsheng, which literally means "face and voice," the Chinese version of a stand-up comic routine performed by a "joke cracker" and a "straight man." Sixty-six-year-old Hou has practiced this ancient art of humor and pointed satire since the 1940s. By now, his raspy voice and fairly face have been broadcast and televised in the furthest corners of China, and he has unquestionably become a tacit member of every Chinese family, with a nationwide fame "no smaller than the premier's and bigger than a minister's," as he once joked.

Any Chinese can immediately retell a couple of his jokes.

"I'm not as stupid as you think!" he protests in one of his best-known routines. "You want me to climb up the beam from your flashlight, eh? I know what you've got in mind! When I'm halfway up, you'll turn off the light and I'll fall down."

Hou's art is backed by a 2000-year-old tradition, but he has brought to it a variety of "reforms," such as professional



Sixty-six-year-old Hou Baolin (left) performs for coal miners.

singing, refined language and obscenity-free jokes. The late Mao Zedong invited him to perform more than a hundred times at official functions.

Even the implacable Red Guards could not avoid being trapped by Hou's humor. Once, it is said, when some Red Guards were holding a "struggle session" of vio-

lent criticism against Hou for alleged "counter-revolutionary crimes," he provoked a burst of laughter and literally disarmed the rebels by saying in a deadpan voice: "I confess! I confess! The monstrous crime was mine—I started World War II."

Hou's barbs are aimed at whatever he considers destructive, harmful or evil to the society—superstition, lack of discipline, breaches of laws or regulations, bureaucracy and even spitting.

On stage, he mimics a myriad of characters: an old granny who stuffs peanuts

into the quilts of newlyweds to inspire birth of sons and daughters; a brash young swaggler who repeatedly violates traffic regulations and gets into trouble; or an opera star who is obliged to hawk water melons during an emergency funeral.

Hou has not been spoiled by his success. He was appointed vice-president of the Chinese Ballad Singers Association, deputy to the National People's Congress, but recently decided to retire from politics to make room for younger artists. When he stepped down, Beijing University hired him as a language professor, an honor recognizing his contributions to spoken Chinese.

Hou himself received little formal education—a total of three months in a primary school for the poor. His "enlightenment" came mostly from his stepfather, a chef who taught him to recite sing-song verses like this: "twisted roll, steamed pie, fruit pie, sugar rose high." He taught himself to read and write, and his list of favorite books includes those typically favored by Chinese intellectuals: the works of Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, Goethe, Bernard Shaw, and Mark Twain. His favorite foreign comedian was Charlie Chaplin.

Hou has published several selected xiangsheng routines and co-authored books—An Historical Study of Xiangsheng and A Brief Introduction to Ballad Singing. The targets of his jokes are people who flaunt the standards of political conduct, who "make their own regulations" or who are insensitive to what the administration considers the public good. Laughter is a mostly-gentle tool for those who don't conform.

"What's funny," he said, "are words or wrong acts at the wrong time and in the wrong place."

He Zhou is a staff writer with China's Pressures, an official agency.



Hou and his "straight man" specialize in pointed satire.

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WorldPaper interview

Why schools for women only?

For 18 years, Dr. Ogkill Kim was president of the world's largest women's university, Ewha Womans University, in Korea. Later, as minister of education, she briefly served as Korea's first woman cabinet member.

Dr. Kim has been unyielding in her defense of university autonomy in political and educational policies, and her support of progressive women's education was the trademark of her administration.

Dr. Kim is best known outside Korea as a prominent leader of the international Christian community. In April of this year she received the highest honor from the Union Theological Seminary in the US, the Union prize, given previously to such figures as former US ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young. She was interviewed for WorldPaper by Dr. Soon Young Yoon, a former professor at Ewha Womans University in the Women's Studies Program and in the Department of Anthropology.

WorldPaper: Dr. Kim, for many years you were president of the largest women's university in the world, a private Christian university. There is a view in many developing countries that the era of private women's colleges is over; that the modern era should have co-educational schools or an expansion of private non-Christian schools. What are your views on that?

Well, I say that private schools are always necessary and they have to stand on principles and ideas of their own. But why, you ask, a school for women only?

For a long time in Korea, during the Japanese occupation, men and women's schools were entirely separate. And the middle schools and high schools still are separate. But after liberation in 1945, all the boys' schools began to accept girl students so now all except a few women's schools are co-educational.

Everybody should be in the same situation. The girls can choose whether to go to the public schools, co-ed or women's institutions. I am always sorry for the boys because they don't have the same choice. They cannot go to a boys-only school even if they wish to.

Educational institutions ought to have, as I said before, certain principles to stand on, not just to move with the times, following the wind. So you say to the woman student, you stay where you are on your own ground to develop. That's a necessity.

Do you think that's particularly true because women need a chance to develop their own leadership?

In Korea women are always serving as vice-president. Always vice, vice, vice. Never taking full leadership on their own campus or classes, or any of those things. It's an onus. Leadership does not just come down from heaven, you have to practice it. You need experience, even just to conduct a meeting.

Let me broaden the discussion. As one of Korea's leading Christian leaders looking at this problem of unification of North and South Korea—and you are from the North, separated now from your family and your home life—as a Christian looking at the problem of unification, what do you think can be done?

As a Christian or not, the main desire of all the people of Korea is unification, you see. If you divide yourself with a strong knot at the middle of your body,



how can you live? That is just like the Korean situation. But despite the great need of reunification, we don't want to unify Korea by force. In the Bible it says if you

live by the sword you will die by the sword. Just like if you use force to unify, to do anything, then it's also destroyed by force. So I'm not active in anything since I retired, as I live in the countryside and so on, but I desire in my heart that we unify, yes, with the Christian spirit of love. It won't be a real unification as long as there is hatred and force, soldiers and guns. That's why it will take a long, long time.

In the unification process, do you think there is a possibility that there will be an awakening in the North to the same Christian idea?

Before the country was divided, Christianity was stronger in the North than in the South and the Christian seed of love, I'm sure, is strong underneath in North Korea. It just cannot come out. And, of

course, it's a closed society. If you see only the things they show you and you hear only the things they want you to hear, then the common people think that is the truth. But the real truth you cannot destroy. Just before I came here, a pilot came down from the North. He was born and raised after the Korean War, you see, so that means when we divided the country he got all his education and his indoctrination, yet there was a longing for liberty. And he came out of North Korea. So he came for liberty. So you cannot bury truth all the time.

People have sometimes said the same about the Japanese in Korea. That they took over all the ideology, all the schools, and made them Japanese.

Forced. Forced the Korean people to be like Japanese and to change the names and the manner and the language and everything. But while nothing that comes from your heart will last long, what is achieved by force, when the force is gone, disappears.

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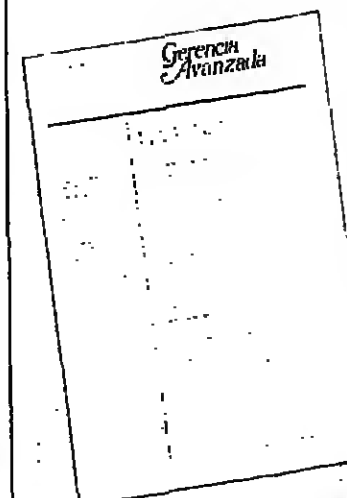
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Diversity is the strength and weakness of the nonaligned



By Arun Chacko
Associate Editor
in South Asia

NEW DELHI—The "nonaligned movement" embraces just about every shade of political opinion, ranging from the communism of Cuba and Vietnam to the capitalism of Singapore and Malaysia. In fact, the group divides up into three main political camps: about 20 countries led by Cuba, 20 led by Singapore and 50 to 60 in between led by India, Yugoslavia and Algeria. The controversies this causes were all too evident in March, when 101 delegates, including some 60 heads of state, gathered for the Seventh Nonaligned Meeting in New Delhi.

As President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka said at the meeting, "We represent an astonishing range of political ideologies, a diversity of social, economic and political systems, and a rich variety of religions and cultures." This diversity generates its own tensions, leading to problems of unity and identity and ultimately to the movement's effectiveness.

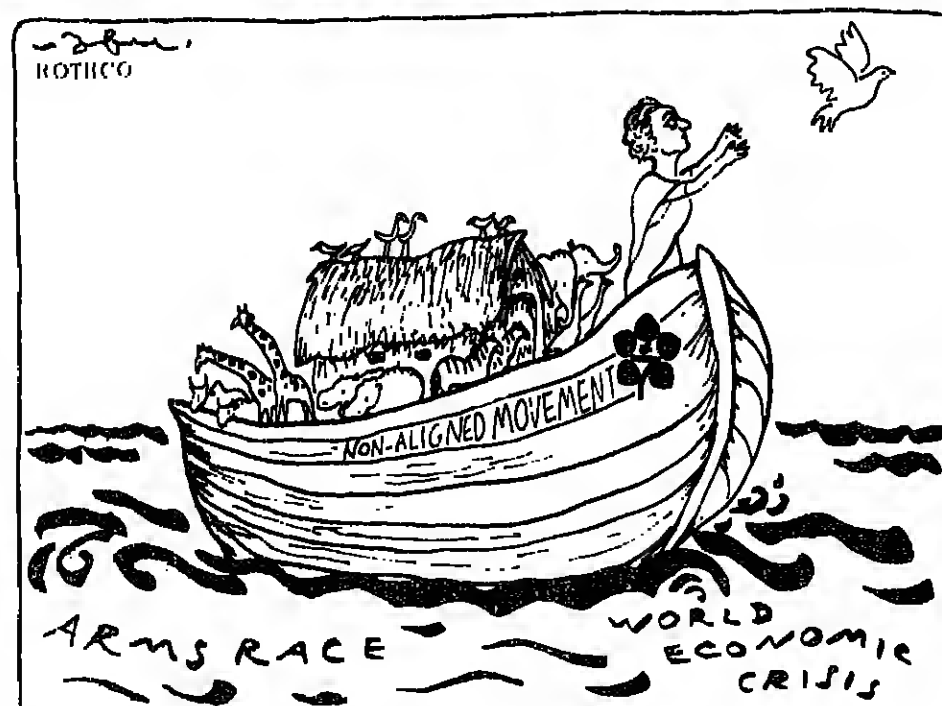
When originally set up in the early sixties as a protective umbrella against the machinations of the power blocs, the non-aligned movement was manageable. Twenty-five representatives of considerable stature and similar outlook—Yugoslavia's Tito, Egypt's Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno, India's Nehru and Ghana's Nkrumah—first gathered at Belgrade in 1961 to sow the seeds of what is becoming a somewhat unmanageable tree.

Every nonaligned summit seems to have one issue that generates much heat, not so much for the issue itself but as an excuse for superpower supporters to confront each other. In Havana it was the proposed expulsion of founder member Egypt for signing the Camp David agreement. This time it was over who should claim the vacant Kampuchean seat.

The seating of the appropriate Kampuchean delegation—whether the current Vietnam-installed government or Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Democratic Kampuchea, which is a front for the discredited former Pol Pot regime—dominated the foreign ministers meeting preceding the summit. As usual the fight was less about the rights and wrongs of individual claims than about control of the nonaligned movement. But it could have jeopardized the actual summit.

Individual positions reflected the side of the fence on which countries sat, though in this nonaligned body the most appropriate position naturally would have been on the fence itself. Led by ASEAN nations like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, backed by such diverse supporters as Yugoslavia and Pakistan, the anti-Soviet side came out strongly for seating Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Democratic Kampuchea. The other side was equally adamant about seating the existing Haig Samrin regime. In the end, those in favor of continuing to leave the seat vacant, led by India, had their way.

The movement's preparatory meeting in Managua last January drafted a document that both virulently attacked the US and virtually aligned the movement behind the Soviet Union. While Yugoslavia, India and others succeeded in moderating the tone, they could not erase



the document's anti-Western and pro-Soviet bias. But Mrs. Gandhi's chairmanship has reassured even hard-line states like Singapore of greater impartiality.

Singapore was one of the most adamant critics of the pro-Soviet bias and has been at odds with India over several foreign policy issues. Its Deputy Prime Minister S. Rajaratnam provocatively has assessed the nonaligned movement: "Its past is one of which we can be justly proud," he declared. "Its present condition however does it no credit. And finally, if it persists in its present course, its future will be one of shameful oblivion."

Referring to "the threat of the possible enslavement of the movement by one of

the document's anti-Western and pro-Soviet bias. But Mrs. Gandhi's chairmanship has reassured even hard-line states like Singapore of greater impartiality.

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"The destruction or enslavement of the nonaligned movement has always been the objective of both the superpowers... In picking on the Soviet Union, I am not exonerating the other superpower."

—Sinnathombi Rajaratnam

the superpowers," Mr. Rajaratnam added, "The destruction or enslavement of the nonaligned movement has always been the objective of both the superpowers... The fulsome praise and regard the Soviets have shown does not stem from a genuine respect for and belief in non-alignment, but springs from an understandable concern to preserve the good name of an establishment they intended taking over...."

"In picking on the Soviet Union, I am not exonerating the other superpower from entertaining equally hostile attitudes and ambitions towards the movement," he continued. "But as of now, I see no evidence of a United States bid to hijack the movement. As far as I know, nobody has been bold enough or mad enough to float the counter idea of the United States as the 'natural ally' of the nonaligned movement."

Another complicating factor is that nonaligned membership hardly has helped to solve bilateral disputes. Some 135 wars have been fought by 85 countries since World War II. Barring Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, all these wars have been between Third World countries—mostly between the nonaligned. The verbal battles in New Delhi between Iran and Iraq, or Guyana's blocking Vene-

the movement would become a mere quantitative accumulation, unable to become a qualitative structure, thereby turning into a prototype of the international organizations existing within the framework of acute conflict and competition. Its influence would therefore diminish, its role would recede, its ability to steer events would erode, and its independent character and distinct identity would melt away."

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar bluntly told his distinguished audience that unless the nonaligned nations both regain their unity and become truly independent from both East and West, there never will be solutions to the world's great problems, only confrontations. Given his Third World and UN background—which he has seen become increasingly impotent because of partisan attitudes—his voice carried weight.

Whatever her personal predilections, India's Indira Gandhi, the meeting's chairman, tried to steer the movement back to a fairly central course. Even though her denial that the final document was tilted against the US wore a bit thin, she did rescue the movement from the blatantly pro-Soviet bias it acquired during the preceding chairmanship of Cuban President Fidel Castro. (The final

political document criticized the US States by name in at least eleven places, mainly over its Latin American and the East roles, and glossed over the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan through its proxies, in Vietnam.

This time, however, President Castro did not try to suggest the Soviet Union was the "natural ally" of the movement as he did in Havana in a somewhat less than successful attempt to hijack the movement. Moscow. Needless to say, that attempt buckled with a vengeance.

The balance injected by increasing moderate influences is most evident in the economic document, where the cause-and-demand approach towards West was dropped in favor of a more reasonable one. Many participants realize that at a time of recession and lower conservatism, no other approach is likely to cut any ice with the "haves."

The economic document called for global negotiations within the UN Nations of a new international economic order, and the restructuring of the world monetary system and the \$300 billion collective debt of developing nations. It favored expanded lending programs from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, fewer restrictions on exports to developed countries and food assistance and energy development programs.

"Never before have the economic tunes of the developed and developing nations been so closely linked together," stated. "Yet many of the rich nations this world are turning in the midst of common crisis to the catastrophic individualism of the 1920s and 1930s, rather than to enlightened multilateralism."

A growing membership and desire would militate against unity in the nonaligned movement in the best of circumstances. The problem is aggravated by the absence of any towering political leader who are widely accepted within the movement. There is no Nasser, Nehru or any more. Nehru's daughter, Charu, for the next four years, is hardly a some league.

But the main problem facing the majority of nonaligned countries is economic, and access to adequate funds is crucial. The source of such funds, and control over them, lies in the industrialized world. Western countries are unable to fork out money for nonaligned countries who constantly attack them.

A Washington Post editorial stated the dangers of bias. "The nonaligned movement is like the United Nations only more so," it read. "Evidence by one another's company, member governments seem to feel liberated and obligated to attack the United States. Fashionable political issues of the day, withstanding the unfairness, tend to or unhelpfulness of the attacks."

"These same governments," it added, "then put out their hand and ask the United States for money. They point in getting too stirred up about familiar pattern, although it is interesting to have explained some of it is that a nation consigned to the darkness for its alleged political and economic can be expected to have the enlightenment and selflessness to recognize a cusera just economic need."

The crucial need for the nonaligned movement remains a greater impact in distinguishing between the powers. Undoubtedly, the vast majority of member states have never subscribed to the "natural ally" theory. And some countries, including India, are more even-handed. That can be the guarantee for the movement's survival.

Refugees testify so 'the world will not forget Afghanistan'

By Sven Egil Omdal
Special to WorldPaper

OSLO—When Farida Ahmadi, a 22-year-old medical student, was arrested in Kabul on a chilly April day in 1981 while she was reading a news bulletin from the resistance movement, she couldn't possibly have imagined the horrors she was going to face during the following months.

But when she told her story to the International Afghanistan Hearing in Oslo, Norway, this spring, she left nothing to the imagination of the hundreds of politicians, researchers and reporters present.

"Three nights in a row I was forced to stand in a lit corridor in front of a table full of hands, feet and eyes that had been cut off from, or torn out of, other prisoners. The walls were covered with blood. One of my torturers asked if it didn't hurt me to see these body parts. I answered: 'Bring everybody here, so they can see your revolution.'"

For weeks, she said, they tried to soften her up by playing Russian music hour after hour, a little bit louder every day until it suddenly stopped—and the physical torture began. "I had to stand up for two weeks without ever being able to sit down. After a while my feet couldn't carry me anymore, and I started to fall, but they grabbed me and forced me back on my feet. After some time I would have preferred even electric torture," she told the enquiry panel.

The main aim of this hearing is to show the Soviet Union that the world will not forget Afghanistan," explained Bjorn Stordrange, the chairman of the hearing. Stordrange, a member of the Norwegian Conservative Party and the youngest MP in Norway, says that a detailed report from the hearing has been presented by the Norwegian foreign minister to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

The report is based on the eyewitness statements and expert analyses given during the hearing and reads like a catalogue of atrocities and inhuman behavior. Theft, destruction of houses and burning of harvests are all the order of the day in occupied Afghanistan. An estimated one million people have died so far in the war, and approximately another three million have been forced to leave their homes and now live as refugees, either in nearby Pakistan or in their own country.

And despite this, political experts agree that the Soviet Union has not won the war, and that this is a new experience for the Kremlin. Their last invasion, of Czechoslovakia in 1968, was a victory with my fight. Now they are caught up in a seemingly endless and extremely expensive war. And whatever expectations the Soviets might have that they will be able to crush the resistance, the witnesses at the hearing in Oslo left no doubt that such expectations are by no means assured.

"For every Afghan the Russians are more even-handed. That can be the guarantee for the movement's survival. Killing the loves we have for our country grows stronger. If they want a final solution in Afghanistan, they'll have to kill us

Top: Farida Ahmadi (right) and Dorr Mohammadd were two of the witnesses at the International Afghanistan Hearing held in Oslo this spring. Below: Nasir Ahmad-Forouki, responding to the questions of the panel of experts, gives an account of atrocities he witnessed in Afghanistan.



all," Farida Ahmadi said.

The panel of experts that questioned the witnesses at the hearing concluded that the accounts given must be considered reliable. Jens A. Christophersen, assistant professor of political science at the

University of Oslo, said that it has been proven that the Norwegian refugees who came to Sweden during World War II gave accurate information about the situation in their home country. "We have a very similar situation in Afghanistan today,"

he said, "and it is hard to understand why the refugees should all lie."

The report from the hearing presented to the UN does not discuss the possible use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, but some of the statements at the hearing hinted that such weapons have been used. Abdul Wahed, another witness, said that he had seen Soviet planes drop bombs that divided into small boxes when they hit the ground. Out of each box came a thick, light blue smoke that caused nausea and dizziness.

"Many of the guerrilla soldiers were not able to eat for days, the tears wouldn't stop running and we had problems with pronouncing even the simplest words. Whether this was a chemical weapon or not, you can decide for yourselves, but to me it doesn't matter very much whether I'm killed by a Russian bullet or Russian gas," he said.

Sven Egil Omdal is a journalist with *Vart Land*, in Oslo.

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Letters

THE HOMEMADE END

AMONG the many contradictions facing us today, one of the more ironic is the fact that science, that most secular activity, is making more and more likely that the mystics' predictions about the end of the world will finally come true.

Economically, as everyone by now already knows, we are in deep and serious trouble. Politicians have, by trade, to be optimistic. They always criticize the other party, but they have no doubt at all that their party has all the right answers. They deal with illusions, with public perceptions of what is important, but more and more they find themselves unable to grasp reality. Today, the only reality is that people all over the world, from the unemployed auto worker in Detroit to the rebellious Catholic in Poland to the undernourished peasant in Central America, are angry. More and more, a general distrust is being felt, and that is not good.

Afraid, not knowing what is going on, the politicians go looking for help. And there is nothing better to explain reality than a trained mind used to measurements and calculations. The economists are a blessing to the anxious politicians. Or at least they used to be. You could always count on some scholarly type to come up with some graphics and curves to prove your point, or to give you a new point on which a new policy would be based and, maybe, an election won.



But it seems to me that the entire gamut of ideas, graphics and curves has been tried, and things only get worse. The US has Reagan and his Reaganomics, France has the socialist Mitterrand, USSR has its central planning, the Third

World has the IMF, and all are in very serious trouble. Not only that, but nobody seems to know what to do about it. But even with this deepest of crises, the economists, those most arrogant and self-sufficient creatures, show no signs that some

slowly creeping doubts are beginning to be felt in their ever-perfect projections and measurements. And this is scary.

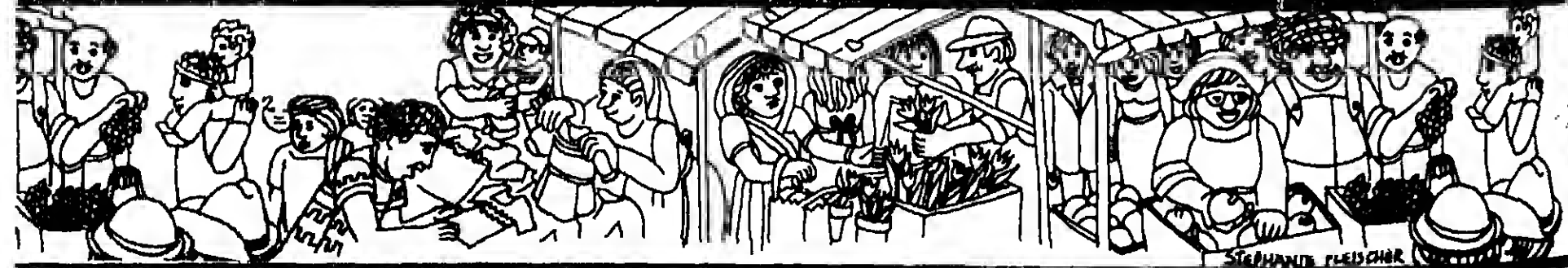
Left out in the open, the politicians find themselves without anything to hold on to—to "sell" to the people as the "new" way out—fall back, once again, on the old, ever present, ever reliable, probably the most basic of human emotions: fear. They start developing programs to arm their countries. It doesn't matter that the US social security is in trouble or that Soviet agriculture is a failure or that in Chile or Vietnam the resources would be more socially efficient if used to feed people instead of feeding the repressive organizations. "They" are coming no matter who they are, and we should be prepared. It doesn't matter if in the process we chemically poisoned the environment, "desappear" with some innocent children or invade some foreign country. We must be alert, and the arms build up must go on.

Until one day someone trips over the excessive armament, and everything is blown away. Of course, no harm was intended, it was just an accident. Maybe the insects, probably the only inheritors of all, will get the message.

The end of the world is not coming, as the prophets say. It is being built, right here, by human hands. It is the ultimate self-fulfilling prophecy.

—Janus Kubrus
Austin, Texas

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The China Syndrome

and Asia Atmospheric

Congressional candor

EYEBROWS all over Asia went up in early April—and mouths may have dropped open too—when the majority party leader of the US House of Representatives, "Tip" O'Neill, on his first trip to China declared that he hadn't known that the issue of Taiwan was such a big thing for the Chinese. People all over Asia seem not amused but rather astonished at this reflection of American insularity. If the man who is the top elected Democrat and has held office in Washington for years, one whose son as lieutenant governor for the state of Massachusetts went to China twice to promote trade, does not have this elementary understanding of Chinese affairs, what, they wonder, can they expect of Washington officialdom overall.

O'Neill wasn't being disingenuous either. To a later question in Beijing, he acknowledged that he didn't know much about foreign affairs—and didn't care very much either.

The insularity isn't easy to overcome. A five-term US Congressman from Colorado, Tim Wirth, was traveling in Asia at the same time during the Easter period. This being his first trip to the region, his eyebrows were raised by most everything he saw in Japan, China and Hongkong. "It's been a tremendous education for me. It's unbelievable to see all this going on here," he enthused at a private party in Hongkong. "To make intelligent judgments and votes on things that affect America and the whole world, we ought to be going abroad once or twice every year. But it's a Catch-22. I can't afford to myself. We haven't got the money or the time. And if it's an official trip, we're constantly berated by the press for taking junk like taxpayers' expense."

Eisaku Sato, Takeo Fukuda, Masayoshi Ohira and Zenko Suzuki had about as much impact on Washington as Seiji Ozawa, the conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

So long comes Nakasone, a man of drive and decisiveness, traveling to South Korea first to offer \$4 billion in foreign aid, and then to Washington to talk up Japan's growing regional defense role as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier." This is the stuff of which overseas popularity is made. But Nakasone's very individuality and decisiveness has left him at home with the lowest ratings in the nation's ubiquitous public opinion polls of any prime minister in recent years—and his party with horrible showings in two recent bi-elections.

If there is a moral to this, it must be that charity begins at home, and style too, even in an interdependent world.

Finger to the wind

Recent travels to several countries uncovered some fresh atmospherics.

Seoul: With five years and the Los Angeles Summer Olympics still to go, the people of Seoul are already looking forward to their day in the athletic sun in 1988. Some 70 percent of the facilities are already said to be complete. Booster signs are visible in many places. The perennial problem of who is to pay the price is being addressed with a series of lotteries. The Koreans take great pride in being only the second Asian country to host the Olympics. And they say they're the first developing country ever, ignoring the fact that Japan in 1964 when she hosted the Olympics was certainly such a country.

Hongkong: The fallout from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Beijing last fall is still filtering through to street level here. The question of what's to happen when China's lease of part of the land to Britain ends in 1997 is foremost in everyone's mind. Hongkong real estate prices have plummeted in recent months, and many a foreign firm is considering moving south to Singapore. The city's most active street entrepreneurs, some of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from China, are the most alarmed by the possibilities of change. But this hasn't slowed the city's pace at all. It's a place where people run to catch the ceaseless Star Ferry just as fast as those in Tokyo to catch the subway, where the elevator doors in office buildings are timed to close faster than anywhere in the world and where commerce remains king to the degree that the Dow Jones stock averages from New York remain on the television screens along with the station call letters after the broadcast day ends.

Manila: More than ten years have passed since the imposition of martial law here. President and Mrs. Marcos still comprise the beginning and the end of most Filipino conversations. The belief is that no one can make a move without the Marcos's knowing about it, and endorsing it. This may not be technically true. But so long as the impression persists, it's just as good. A pithy example of this syndrome can be found in the taxi trade where the colorful jeepneys are slowly being phased out and where there's a new fleet of blue-and-white taxis to compete with the old yellow-and-black ones. The new ones are cleaner, air conditioned and more expensive. The old cabs cannot use their "air cons" even if they have them, and are flooded heavily if they do. The new cabs are called Metro Manila. Mrs. Marcos is the governor of Metro Manila—and is widely believed to profit from this new arrangement that gives them the exclusive franchise over a cool ride in a hot city.

Singapore: The social control and discipline of the citizens of Singapore is an old story. Seat belts are more mandatory here than anywhere else, and special vouchers are needed to drive downtown during rush hour. Now water conservation has become a major campaign.

And I find it's no longer good form or even friendly at a Chinese banquet to pick up food in one's chopsticks and pass it on like a toast to someone else at the table, a la the late Chou En-lai in his courtly days in Beijing. Indeed, it's becoming decidedly bad form. "That's a real no-no now," I was told. "We're told it passes germs, it's not hygienic and we shouldn't do it." So much for fraternal eating.

Tokyo: The Japanese are known for their diligence and earnestness more than their sense of humor. But a recent edition of the Mainichi Daily News, the English lan-

guage daily that is published by one of Tokyo's three major Japanese language papers, shows some fresh flair. A recent front page promoted a special section on the country of "Hara Kirai," sporting the many national-day articles that are recognized in Tokyo's papers to attract government advertising.

The section included a tongue-in-cheek article about the fictitious country complete with some giveaway lines like: "In Mny, a fundamentalist revolution swept the country, but a papal visit followed by a Billy Graham revival followed by a Hare Krishna invasion, followed by a Jerry Falwell Kill-a-Commie-for-Christ crusade left Hara Kiraians a nation of emotional wrecks." The issue appeared on April 1, in honor of April Fools. The giveaway wasn't enough for the Tokyo head of the Bank of India, however, who called the Mainichi to inquire about Hara Kirai—because he couldn't find it on the map.

Sydney: Australians have been crying in their warm beer for some months now about the killer wave of economic problems, based on rising rates of unemployment and continued trade union demands. Just now there are some happy distractions, however, one political, the other historical.

The country's new prime minister, Bob Hawke, is a maverick, a former trade unionist, who is the country's second Labor Party prime minister in 30 years. He is enjoying a bit of a honeymoon period right now after convening a first-of-its-kind summit conference recently for 300 government, business and labor leaders to try to reach some kind of Japanese-style consensus about how best to ride the killer wave. The meeting took place for four days in Canberra and attracted far more praise than cynicism on the part of the nation's snappy media lords and political cartoonists.

The other timely distraction for those Down Under is viewing the units of a man-made, life-sized, 2000-year-old army that was crafted by Chinese artisans to protect the tomb of the nation's first emperor Qin Shihuang. These warriors, part of the incredible discovery of 1974, are being exhibited in five cities of Australia to commemorate the tenth anniversary of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. They have captured the country's imagination as much as Bob Hawke. It's estimated that more than half the nation's 14 million people will have seen these terra-cotta army figures by the time the exhibit completes its run in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.



Chinese troops in Australia

Dial-an-astronaut

Americans who want to get some vicarious thrills from the US space program need only dial a telephone number to listen in on live communications between the crew of the Challenger space probe and mission control in Houston, Texas. This latest example of "tuning in" is clearly designed to build public support for the expensive space program, and therefore congressional support as the annual funding requirements are considered. The ultimate perhaps in space-age lobbying.

Japan is 116

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A sculptress of controlled intensity and serenity

By Ruth Abu Deeb

TO SEE Mona Saudi's current exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery is to enter, in a moment of breath-taking transformation, a world where colour and texture—from the burnished intensity of black Aleppo diorite to the roseate glow of Jordanian limestone, the cool silkiness of Carrara marble, the matt presence of Jordanian stone—fuse together harmoniously. The flowing yet contained lines of the sculptures are reflected in the curvilinear forms of the drawings, with their cool greys, gentle ochres and their strangely luminous opaqueness softly yet hauntingly nascent with yearning of all kinds.

"The Dawn", evocative of woman's form, rising in all very coolness from a background of muted greys, "The Night", the same evocation, sleeping gently under a crescent moon... And when the silk-screen prints introduce unexpectedly through darker lines, sharper angles, a note of perturbation.

Yet the predominant tone is an amazing

warmness, a sense of being that emanates from the concepts of the twenty-two sculptures on display.

Each sculpture possesses an aura of awareness so intense, so intrinsic, that the spectator becomes almost an irrelevant intruder as long as he is lost behind his social camouflage.

Yet despite the individuality of each creation, the sculptures at first appear not as separate entities, but amazingly as an organic whole. Together with the visual continuity in the flowing lines and the recurrent "leitmotif" of the encapsulated embryonic circle expressed through harmonious gradations of colour, this sense of "oneness" derives almost certainly from the "oneness" of theme, Maternity, birth, growth, interwoven with the four elements, earth, air, fire, water, so that perception flows from one sculpture to another without interruption.

Indeed, these abstract sculptures, through simple uncluttered lines which allow the concept to emerge in full intensity, express the essence of life. "The Kiss" is total fusion. "Woman and Child" is unbinding love. Mona Saudi, in this outstanding exhibition, allows us to forget ourselves as social beings and brings us back to the fullness of life in its elemental, uncorrupted form.

"And if I were asked for a monument in Sabra or Shatila, I would still sculpt something full and warm because that is what I saw in people." Mona Saudi

THIS WEEK Mona Saudi talked to Ruth Abu Deeb about what drew her to sculpture, her views on art, her feelings on being away from her country of origin.

Q: You returned to Jordan last year after the war in Lebanon. Do you feel isolated?

A: Not really. After the volcanic situation in Beirut, there are no outside pressures. I think of Amman as not a city, not a village—rather as a suburb of the world. In fact, I have the desire to discover things anew. I was born here and I was here that I had the first small dreams of what I wanted to become. The city has changed but the dreams are there. It is the motherhood of earth where I began.

Q: But where do you feel your home to be?

A: I feel many places are my homeland. In Paris I experienced my "other birth". And I spent four years in Beirut. But Amman is the womb.

Q: So you feel Jordanian first?

A: For me, the whole area is one country. My family came from Syria, so I grew up hearing a Syrian accent and spending my summers there. Then I lived so long in Beirut. And I am linked by my heart to Palestine.

Q: When did you first visit Palestine?

A: I was thirteen. In Jerusalem I had the feeling as if the whole world had begun there. And I understood why it was the Holy Land. I felt the need was spiritual. I found myself looking for new values, pure feelings.

Q: Can you attribute some of these feelings to the quality of light, of colour, there?

A: Maybe. For example, I could not live in Europe. My life moves with light. I get up with the light and work just during the daytime. If people want to visit me, I tell them to come after five!

Q: Is this something to do with your work?

A: Light is important in sculpture. You are dealing with forms, the relation between light and shadow. Artificial light gives illusions of light, but I will not accept it even for photographs. I do not like things created by effect. I like things that are real.

Q: Your relationship with stone you describe as a love. Do you not have the impression that you are in love with it, rather than you are using it?

A: It is a dialogue, a friendship. I go with the stone and the stone goes with me. It has its own life. Stone is different from plaster or wood. It is a life once and forever.

stones, admiring them. The first step was my relation with the stone. I still have it. I look with love at a stone. Sometimes I go to a certain quarry for a certain stone of a certain size. Yes, then the idea is there. But generally I have plenty of stones around me. I like a stone, bring it home and begin to get an idea of what to do with it. But I do not work stones that have a prior form. I start from a "block" and keep within the perimeter of the stone.

Inspiration

Q: Do you feel the same about each stone that you work?

A: Well, limestone is straightforward. You deal with it to form it. But there is a kingdom of stones... Take white marble or there is a beautiful green marble. This is very beautiful in itself. It is a problem to work these stones because they have their own beauty. The beauty of the stone takes the form and you ask what you can add to it. However, you work to bring the beauty out.

Q: What attracted you to sculpture?

A: My love for the earth, for light, for stones was a very early one. Amman was a small city and I used to play near the Roman amphitheatre. I used to look at small pieces of the ruins at seated women, the movement of their clothes. There was a small room with dusty wire across the window. There was very little light in the room but it was full of sculptures. I used to leave the other children just to look at them.

Q: What encouraged you in your interest in art?

A: I don't know! There was no art movement in the country and no interest at all in the family, of any kind.

Q: I began to draw alone, to look at art books. I was not very attached to colour but to black and white. I remember that once someone came to the house to do some plastering and I made a face out of plaster—but the face disintegrated and until now I do not like plaster!

Q: When did you leave Jordan?

A: At seventeen. I went to Beirut. I knew I wanted to do something creative but I was not sure what. I had read about the Basbous brothers who lived in the village of Rashene near Byblos, so I took a "service" and went looking for them! We became friends and it was my first exposure to sculpture after the Roman amphitheatre. Until then, I had been drawing, writing poetry. After that, I wanted to go to Paris to study sculpture.

Q: How did your family allow it?

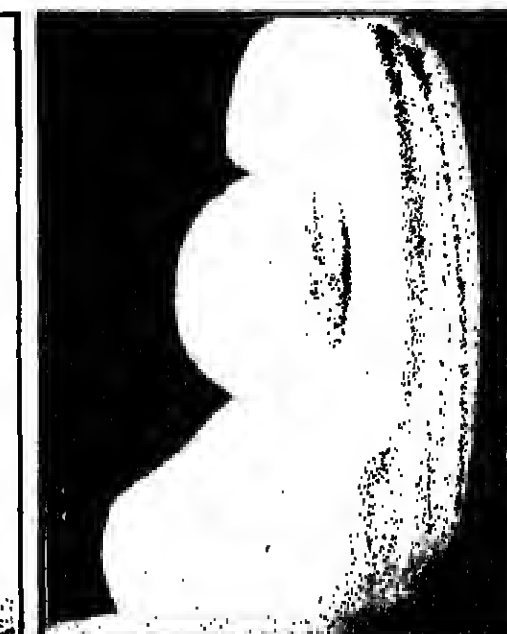
A: Well, I went without the knowledge of my father who was something of a mystic. He could have perhaps accepted me being a teacher, but not, for example going to a university, but from the



Mona Saudi



'Mother and child' 1981 (Marble-Carrara)



'Mother and child' 1982 (Limestone-Jordanian)

age of twelve I had wanted to go to Paris, and when I went something I did! It was my brother living in Beirut who accepted me going and he used to send me the minimum to live on in Paris. I was also greatly encouraged by friends—Adonis, the Basbous brothers, Jurdak, the Lebanese artist.

Q: How was your approach to art viewed in Paris, when you were studying sculpture at L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts?

A: I was lucky. I found teachers who understood my views. They told me that they taught students to be skilful but that I had another way of thinking, that there was something inside me that they would not touch. But they also warned me that I could arrive at a point of nothingness if this something disappeared...

Q: Apart from the ancient arts, what have been the greatest influences upon you?

A: Brancusi mainly. Brancusi discovered how to express human forms in a very abstract way, to say the maximum of things with the minimum of elements. You cannot be talkative in sculpture and Brancusi found "le principe". For me, sculpture is nearly a sign.

Q: Are there any other influences?

A: I like a few things by Henry Moore. Q: How do ideas come to you? Do you have on abstract ideas or remember something you have seen?

A: I have a feeling or idea. For example, in my sculpture "Pregnant Woman", I am trying to convey what she feels rather than how she appears. And works develop out of each other! While working on one sculpture, you find new elements which will not go into it so you save them for another sculpture.

Artist's role

Q: What are you trying to express through your work? For example, it has none of the "spikiness" of, say, Giacometti. There is a sense of warmth, of fullness that emanates from your sculptures.

A: My work relates to the plenitude of life. Giacometti used the European way of seeing things. He used to work with human models although he distorted proportions. I need no models. In the

way, I am closer to Brancusi and Moore. Around '66, '67, I liked Giacometti very much.

Q: What part does your work play in your life?

A: Doing sculpture is my way of living and doing things. I do it faithfully and I undertake a kind of creation and research in it. Life is stronger than death and there is a force of continuation in life.

I have my force and I continue in spite of any difficult situation. In this war, just one fraction of a second and I could have lost all my sculpture—but even so, I do not think I would have stopped working. Sculpture is my meaning for life.

Q: What do you consider to be the role of the artist?

A: The artist's main responsibility is first to himself, then to others. The basic thing is to try to do good art.

Q: But what about your role as an Arab artist? After all the destruction of Beirut, which you yourself lived through, your work still radiates this warmth, this plenitude you talked of. Some might say, "How can this be?" that it is almost your duty to depict the horror, the destruction to make others outside the situation aware of what happened.

At first, I think if people are not aware of what is happening after all the coverage of the mass media, they will not be sensitive to my work. Secondly, I cannot change the West and I do not care at all about what the West is thinking. What interests me now is not defending ourselves or our image elsewhere but what we are doing ourselves here—building our culture, building ourselves. Our identity here is more important.

And it is this that I try to show through my work. Not destruction, not death, which come from outside. But the plenitude, the warmth which are inside. The moment of strength is a human being whatever the conditions.

And if I were asked for a monument in Sabra or Shatila, I would still sculpt something full and warm because that is what I saw in people. If I could not see this, but only the death, only the destruction, I could no longer create, there would be no point in living.



'Pauze'



'Where to go'



'Statue'



'Cleaning'

'The only perfect artist...'

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff Writer

A CHILD sits alone gazing pensively into the distance, a ragged old man stands beside an abundance of food, a woman sits with her child, lost in the big city. For Turkish photographer, Osman Akuz, these are the subjects that matter. The ones that are around us everyday -- in nature and in daily life.

For Mr. Akuz, "the only perfect artist is God." When he looks at the simple, coherent beauty of God's creation he sees also man's incoherent impact on that creation. His photographs show the beauty and ugliness, the joy and sorrow, the poignancy and humor that mark our world and humanity.

Some of these photographs will be on exhibition this week at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.

Mr. Akuz has been taking photographs since 1974. The prints in his exhibition have been

chosen from his collection of over 7000 slides, which 2500 have been taken since he came to Jordan three and a half years ago.

In his work Mr. Akuz uses no filtering or special techniques. His photographs are taken in natural light with no manipulation of the subject in the actual taking of the picture. He is developing. With this he aims to give more spontaneous and natural quality.

His current show is his first venture into straight photographic exhibition but many people in Amman are already familiar with his work. In 1981 and 1982 he presented two highly successful "Slide and Sound" shows at the Grand Cinema.

Mr. Akuz is now preparing a new slide depicting scenes from Jordan and is also planning to do some work with photographic collage.

His exhibition at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental will run from Saturday 21 May to Thursday 26 May.

Young painters commemorate the tragedy of 1948

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Special to the Star

SIXTEEN YOUNG Jordanian artists have come together this week to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. They are exhibiting their work at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

The forty paintings on show cover the range of emotions felt by the artists when they consider the tragedy of 1948 and the years following -- sorrow, anger, rejection and, at times, optimism.

In a picture of the 1948 expulsion Muhammad Abu Zurq shows that the way is full of difficulties, the destination is uncomfortable and the flames continue. Muhammad Issa's portrait of Sabra and Shatila brings us the events in their misery and horror. Adnan Yahya portrays the same scene as a catastrophe but in his painting we find a small window which indicates a glimmering future.

Hussien Da's drawing in Chinese ink expresses the emigration and Zion-

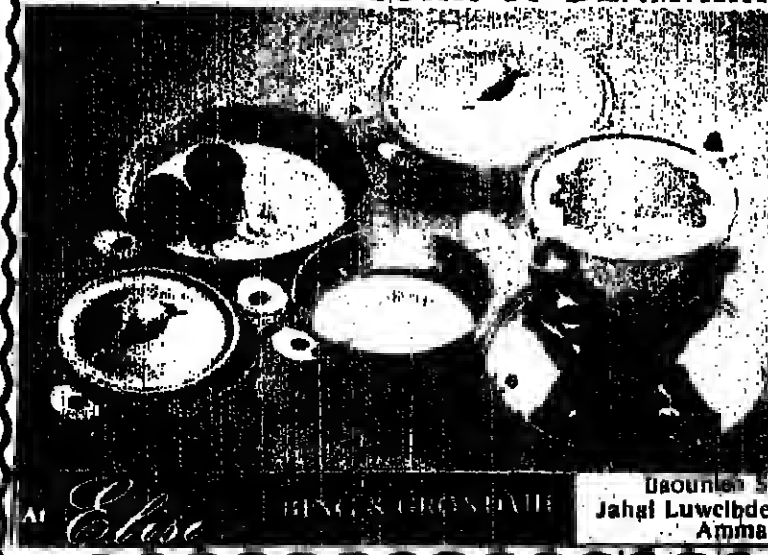
ist savagery inside Al-Ansar camp in Lebanon.

Several new names appear in the exhibition including Lana Tamrouqa whose two oil paintings show a good technique, Yusef Saraya, Hussein Sarhan, 'Asim Al-Salhi and writer-artist Hind Abu Al-Shar.

There also signs of a growing trend towards "poster" drawings evident in the work of Wasef Al-Momani, Adnan Yahya, 'Asim Al-Salhi and Hussein Sarhan.

The exhibition continues on Wednesday 25 May.

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All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

On with the paint

THERE IS always a lot of discussion about women's make-up -- if they should wear it or not, and if so, when, and how much is enough. Debates rage as to whether women actually look better with it on or if they are more attractive in their natural faces.

The English for years have subtly convinced their women that natural beauty was enough and it needed no help. This line of talk probably resulted in many an extra pint at the pub for the family's old man. And today's Western youth who have joined the counterculture have rejected the entire idea of altering the faces they were born with.

Cosmetics companies have strived frantically to counteract this trend by launching advertising campaigns to persuade us that we will be more feminine only if we use their products.

As to being feminine or not, was not that decided long before our baby, and in fact in the moment of conception -- except perhaps for a few unusual medical cases.

But there they are -- shelves full of bottles, jars, tubes, cakes of compressed colours and a fascinating variety of applicator gadgets displayed in pharmacies, clothing stores and supermarkets for us to buy.

Increasingly the use of cosmetics has come to signal a certain degree of maturity achieved. However, a bit of paint on a youthful face is like adding the lily. And too heavy an application of "beauty aids" on a woman of any age is more apt to result in her resembling a circus clown than enhancing what nature gave her. Overdoing a thing provides a caution opposite to the goal desired. If there are occasions when those little paint pots are helpful.

When a mother is kept from resting at night by a fussy baby so that she ends up with blue circles under her eyes from sleep deprivation. Then people who are sincerely concerned for her welfare remark "Gee, you don't look so good. What's the matter with you? Are you sick?" just when she thought she had a chance to relax and have a nice chat instead of worrying about baby. A judicious application of cosmetics can cover up the ravages of sleepless nights and give her a few moments respite from the demanding job of childrearing.

The same technique can be used to cover the signs of illness or on "road occasions to break routine, or to assist in lifting the morale at any time.

But it does take time and a certain degree of skill to apply these cosmetics in an attractive manner and to find just what suits your individual needs. And if used continuously it is bad for the skin, clogging up the pores and stopping it from breathing. So it should be used for a few hours only and then cleaned off thoroughly.

All of this is frequently covered in women's magazines along with helpful hints on how to apply ten bags, cucumbers and other fruits and vegetables to the face to improve the condition of lady's complexion.

I have read those pieces that recommend such procedures because naturally in treading of them I get hungry. Consequently the thought occurs to me that if I ate a bit of everything listed it would give me a full supply of vitamins, improve my health and subsequently my appearance because no matter what cosmetics we enro to use, the real secret of beauty is to be healthy.

Would you believe it?

A COURT in Arizona, USA, has sentenced to 34 years in prison and fined \$336,000 a man who by his own account married more than 100 women.

ABIAN, angry after a row with his wife, placed a live 76 mm artillery shell in her bed. The woman, named only as Zofia T, took the shell to the police in Krakow.

They took in her husband, named as Wieslaw, for questioning, and an army bomb disposal unit dealt with the shell. It is not clear where the shell came from. (WGT)

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Christopher Matthew 'Would Ralph Richardson have gone jogging?'

A seven minute thought ...

By Maureen Cleave

FROM MY general reading I had assumed the ageing process to be confined to women: tissue shrive and puckered thighs were feminist issues, the wringing on the wall for our eyes alone.

Christopher Matthew has at last come up with the immensely cheering news that this is not the case. Men, too, age.

A problem shared may be a problem halved but the problems are not quite the same: premature balding and emaciation, compulsory trips to the laundry in the middle of the night, an obsession with sex. Such like the ageing male flesh is heir to.

Research has shown the middle-aged male thinks of sex every seven minutes. Mr. Matthew, with a conscientiousness one might expect of him, makes nothing as read.

That morning, while playing a round of golf, he determined to see how often he thought of sex. He hadn't

thought of it once, but then he is only 43.

Not least of the problems created by the sixties was the delusion that we would all be young for ever. "Our parents," Mr. Matthew said, "knew they were middle-aged. They had been through the war and there was no question of staying young. My father would say, 'I don't think I'll bother to get the car out,' and they'd settle down for the evening in front of the fire."

"Now people can't tell how old they are. They rush round in hand-painted jeans and shirts open to the waist show -- atrocious tuffs of hair, grasping women's buttocks at parties, going to Bob Dylan concerts, having Jacuzzi baths, throwing their wives over and wearing their hair in silly bunches over their ears like television presenters."

Prompted by this madness he began his book *How to Survive Middle Age*. He is rather a handsome man with a full head of hair, nice loose-fitting

clothes befitting his age and station, and a sympathetic defeatist attitude.

Being a humorist, his approach to his subject may seem light-hearted, even at times irresponsible; castration, for instance, is recommended to arrest balding though he does admit it won't restore hair already lost.

But his message about how to survive middle age is deadly serious. It is given in gracefully because there's nothing to be done. "Chests drop, backs fatten, bums spread," he says, the monosyllables emphasizing the stark truth. It is not the line taken by Jane Fonda but then his role models in ageing are John Bejerman and Ralph Richardson.

"John Bejerman I put down as a man who missed out middle age altogether. Whenever I am tempted to do something silly like jogging I ask myself: would Ralph Richardson have gone jogging? Would John Bejerman have had a hair transplant? and of course, the answer is No.

Nervous colon

Recently my brother put a bad case of colitis. I think that it is all from his nerves. He is always getting angry and blowing up, shouting and carrying on. I am trying to convince him to be more calm. THERE ARE many different kinds of colitis and also a multitude of causes. Colitis is a very real physical condition. It is an infection, inflammation or irritation of the inner lining of the large intestine.

Every possibility must be carefully studied so that the physician may be sure that no important underlying disease is overlooked.

Bacterial cultures and smears of the stool, X-ray studies with barium are all used for diagnosis. Newer tools include fiberoptic endoscopy. With this instrument the doctor can see into the colon and other parts of the digestive system and frequently discover more than one cause of the problem.

Health by Joyce Niles

After exact diagnosis is made, your brother may also benefit from some psychological guidance to help control his emotions for the human being is a unit and an upset in emotions does effect the rest of the person and often shows in the digestive system. The wish to control all circumstances of one's life or the inability to make decisions for fear of making a mistake can set up enormous tensions.

Fish pie

Ingredients

- 500g cod or haddock fillets
- salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 50g butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1-397g can tomatoes
- 1 clove garlic, crushed (optional)
- 125g mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 500g potatoes, cooked
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 tablespoons grated Cheddar cheese

Method

- Place the fish in a saucepan with enough cold water to cover. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring to simmering point and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, heat the oil and half the butter in a frying pan, add the onion and fry gently for 5 minutes or until softened.
- Stir in the tomatoes with their juice, garlic, if using, mushrooms and thyme and cook for 5 minutes.
- Drain the fish, discard all skin and bones, then flake and add in the tomato mixture. Transfer to a 20 cm (8 inch) round deep pie dish.
- Mash the potatoes with the remaining butter and the milk, and season well. Spread over the fish mixture and fork up.
- Sprinkle with the grated cheese and place in a preheated moderately hot oven, 200°C (400°F), Gas Mark 6, for about 20 minutes or until golden on top.

Serves 4

Chef's Corner

people

Just Between Us

Yaqoub Sulim

Time to go home

HOW DEPRESSING it is when a season just doesn't flow when to put it will hang around for weeks and weeks, as seen on the weather becomes unreasonable and artificial fashions become mysterious. It is particularly sad in the case of winter, which of all seasons is most likely to stay its welcome after not very long.

Unfortunately, this has happened this year. Yes, winter is still around town, hanging under tables and behind parked cars. It stays indoors most of the time, but still pops out occasionally as a cold last Saturday. And it's getting milder.

Writer for Winkler shows an old friend of mine, and I am not but the other day at a friend's house. I take a good look at him, I decided to tell him what his other friends would not. It's always an unpleasant task to do such things, rather like trying to sound sincere while declining an invitation to a boring cocktail party. In this case, it was even more painful.

Wink was sitting there with a dumb, in his hand, looking rather as though he had passed him by. No one was talking with him. His shirt was unbuttoned, but otherwise he was fairly presentable.

"Hello, Wink old chum! What a surprise to see you here!" I said, trying desperately to put a cheery face on the whole matter.

"Surprise? Why a surprise?" he replied. I was afraid I had offended him. "Well, you must admit... you have stayed in town rather longer than usual this year."

"I don't know about that, I'm just doing what feels right, as I always do," he came back. "What's the matter with that?"

"Oh come on, Winkie!" I said briskly, taking the bull by the horns. "Don't pretend you don't know it's already past the middle of May! I mean seriously, no offense meant, but this is just too much."

I turned myself as I said that last look came into his eyes. Maybe he really doesn't know, I thought. Poor fellow!

"You — you mean you don't want me here any more?" My friends want me to leave? He was a bit dazed, his spirit wilted and he gazed sightlessly across the room. "I thought people liked rain and cool weather! I always thought I was popular! What are you trying to tell me?"

I rushed to his side, trying to repair a bit of damage I could. "No, it's not that at all, Wink. We do still like you, and of course it's like the rain and cold. But I'm sorry — this time it's just gone on too long."

He sat down, I could see tears glittering in his eyes as he realised the full import of what I was saying. Yes, it was time for winter to end.

Slowly he turned and, picking up his hat, began to walk off. He shook his head slowly to himself as he went. The room was silent.

A burst of thunder and a gust of cool wind came in the door as he opened it to leave. He looked back at me, waved weakly and was off. So sad, I thought, as that misty Spring opened all the windows and said, "Thank goodness that old bore's gone!"

Open invitation

The Royal Society of Fine Arts in co-operation with the American Centre cordially invites all poetry lovers to a literary evening of poetry recital by the American-Arab poet Naomi Shehah Nye among works of art at the Jordan National Gallery from 6 to 8 pm Saturday 21 May 1983.

IMAN EXHIBITION

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Silver Trays
Ceramics and Other Gift Items
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Near Al Akhbar Newspaper Tel. 663823



Air-conditioning with a difference

A trip to Jawa... or 'The Friends' Folly'

• The Friends of Archaeology's latest trip, an overnight excursion to the 4th millennium B.C. desert city of Jawa certainly won't be forgotten in a hurry.

When they set off for Jawa on Friday morning the Friends were anticipating a leisurely tour of the site, a relaxing barbecue, a sound and light show and a healthy night under the stars.

Instead they got a "natural" sound and light show that came with a bonus of rain, a bus with disappearing windows and a dust storm.

The early part of the trip was a bit of a disaster. A leisurely lunch at Jawa was followed by a thorough and fascinating tour of the site led by its excavator Svend Helms.

But, as preparations began for the barbecue, the clouds rolled over. Svend

Helms had, as always, come prepared for a gourmet dinner. So, together with Raouf Abu Jaher, Carol Bollinger, Theresa Wegelius, Marianne Pearson, Kevin and Susan O'Donnell and several other hardy souls, he continued on cooking. The group are now wondering what future archaeologists will make of the bones of Gulf fish out there in the desert.

At the other end of the camp Svend Helms, encouraged by Allison Belts, Victoria and Don Kingsmill and daughters Katie and Alex, Ruby Apple, Ahmad Sharaka, Rami Khouri, Burton McDonald and Linda Lane, was setting up his slide show. After half a dozen downpours he had to admit defeat and is now promising a slide show at ACOR at a later date.

Saturday morning saw some damp campers, especially like Barron who almost floated away during the night.

A delicious breakfast of fruit, cheese and dates restored spirits and was especially appreciated by Jim Welas. Then it was already for Qasr Amra. It turned out to be a very breezy trip when one bus detached itself from the bus.

After a look at Qasr Amra, quick lunch the bus party scolded not to tempt fate further. For home and promptly drove into a dust storm.

Arrival in Amman was greeted with some relief but the Friends' hardy group and blessed with a humour and more excursion were planned even as they braved the weekend dust.

• The band was playing German and the audience could not resist their glasses of beer and again to toast the German folk.

The occasion was the 4th German Spring Festival held in Amman at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. Three-night festival was arranged by Luthansa German Airlines. The finger brewery and the Jordan Inter-Continental. Bavarian food and drink were flown in specially by Luthansa. The Executive Chef Friedrich could prepare several German specialties including Frankfurt beer, homemade roast sausage, creamed veal goulash, German marble cake and Berliner doughnuts.

A feature of the festival was German music by the six-man German Brass Band from Munich, who are their fourth visit to Amman.

But the real highlight was a performance by magician and entertainer Fred Maroo having sponge balls disappear out of one hand to reappear in the other seemed to be quite easy. A diamond ring, belonging to one of the ladies in the audience, happened to fall its way into an egg, and a jiu jitsu inside an orange.

The festival also included a number of traditional German festival competitions such as the wood-sawing competition which dates back a thousand years and is the main event for the woodcutters guild in the Bavarian Alps.

• The American Women of Amman have announced the results of their annual election of officers. Officers bearers for the coming year are Pamela Dorn, president, Mrs. S. Roberts, vice-president, Mrs. Sleg, secretary and Mrs. Vander, treasurer.

The Little Grey Donkey

In the fourth and final part of Joyee Abu Jassar's story the little grey donkey finds himself in trouble yet again in the outside world away from his farmyard home. After many experiences, he decides that this is not the kind of life he really wants to lead...

Pictures by Joyee Abu Jassar



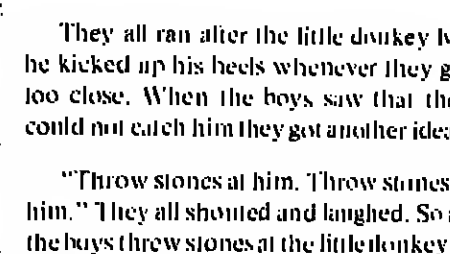
It was early morning, long before the sun, the peddler came to the stable and began loading the donkeys.

"We have a very long journey today," he said. "We must travel until nightfall to reach the big city."

He finished loading the other three donkeys. Then he came to the little donkey. But before he could put a large box on the little donkey's back, the donkey stepped and kicked up his heels. He ran out of the stable door and through the empty marketplace with the peddler running after him, shouting, "Come back. Come back here!" But he could not catch him.

The little grey donkey ran through the sleeping village and down the same road that they had travelled the day before. He ran as fast as his legs would carry him. He ran on and on all morning.

By the early afternoon he had reached the village they had started from the day before. As he went through the streets the boys of the village shouted, "Look at the donkey! Catch him! Catch him!"



They all ran after the little donkey but he kicked up his heels whenever they got too close. When the boys saw that they could not catch him they got another idea.

"Throw stones at him. Throw stones at him," they all shouted and laughed. So all the boys threw stones at the little donkey.

"Terrible boys, I'll bite you for this," brayed the little donkey as the stones rained down upon him. He turned and bared his teeth at them, chasing them and scattering them through the streets. But the boys thought this was great fun.

Laughing and shouting, they shrieked, "Throw more stones. Throw more stones!"

The stones again began to rain down on the little donkey. He turned back and ran as fast as he could go through the village streets. He ran through the marketplace and out the other side of the village.

When he was out of sight of the village he stopped for a while to rest. The little grey donkey was so tired that he wanted to throw himself on the ground and sleep.

But he knew that he could not do that. He must continue. So he got up and hurried down the road.

His little legs were burning from tiredness. His hide stung from the blows of the peddler's stick and the stones of the village boys. But he hurried on.

The sun was going down in the afternoon sky. There was not much time left. He must travel still more.

Just as the sun touched the highest point on the tall mountains the little donkey saw the sight for which his eyes

searched. It was the little farm that he had run away from. The kind old farmer was in the farmyard taking the little donkey's sister to the barn. The farmer's wife was sitting in front of the house with the big black dog at the feet.

"Here I am. Here I am," brayed the tired donkey in his tired voice. "I've come back."

The old farmer and his wife looked up in great surprise.

"There you are, little donkey," said the farmer. "We thought we would never see you again."

"Where have you been?" brayed his sister.

Even the farmer's big black dog got up and wagged his tail to welcome the little donkey. Then the donkey turned his head toward the farmer and brayed in his tired voice, "I'll never run away again. Please forgive me."

The kind old man understood. He took the little donkey into the barn and fed him and gave him water. The little donkey was home at last.

"Ah," he said, "this is the best place in all the world." That night the little donkey slept very happily.

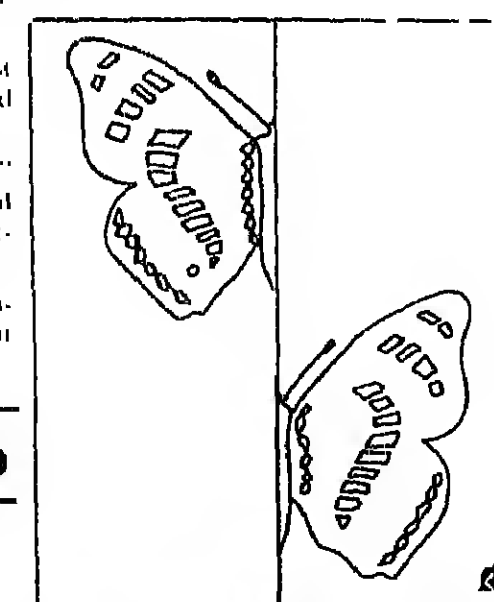
In the morning, when the sun first peeked over the tall mountains, the kind old farmer came out to the barn.

"Good morning. Good morning," brayed the little donkey. "Come," he told his sister. "Let us not keep the farmer waiting."

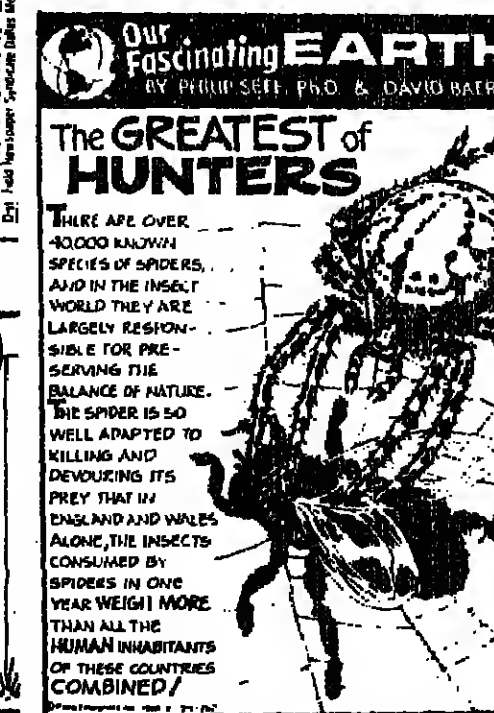
The old farmer hitched the two donkeys to the plough and they all went out into the fields.



An International girl (left) Mark Welles (12) from Scotland and Meshary Ald (18) in his traditional Arab dress. Two of the many nationalities of children who enjoyed the International Jordanian Festival at the American Community School last Friday.

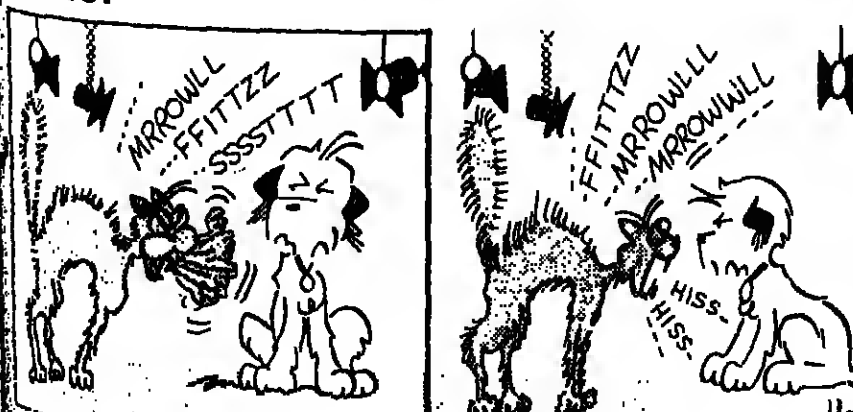


CAN YOU COMPLETE THE TWO PICTURES AND THEN COLOUR THEM?



There are over 40,000 known species of spiders, and in the insect world they are largely responsible for preserving the balance of nature. The spider is so well adapted to killing and devouring its prey that in England and Wales alone, the insects consumed by spiders in one year weigh more than all the human inhabitants of these countries combined!

BENJI



by Wright and Camp

TUMBLEWEEDS



by TOM K. RYAN



PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

PLUNK!

HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT? DID YOU SEE WHAT I DID?

THAT WAS VERY FUNNY! I CAUGHT THE BALL IN MY GLOVE, BUT INSTEAD OF THROWING YOU THE BALL, I THREW YOU THE GLOVE

THAT WAS VERY FUNNY, WASN'T IT?

HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS VERY FUNNY!

FRANK & ERNEST

TALKING TO PLANTS IS SUPPOSED TO HELP THEM GROW, BUT I CAN NEVER THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY TO THEM.

WELL, LET'S SEE...

"YOU LOOK SHARP TODAY" WOULD BE JUST RIGHT FOR THIS CACTUS...

AND "HEY, YOU'RE THE BERRIES" TO THIS HOLLY...

EVERGREENS ENJOY BOGART IMPRESSIONS - "IT'S JUST YEW AND ME, KID!"

OKAY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS PALM?

THAT'S EASY!

GIMME FIVE!

Tarzan
by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

STEADY, MR. SLAUGHTER. HE'LL BE BREAKING COVER ANY SEC--

THERE!

KRAK!

NICE SHOT, MR. SLAUGHTER. BUT A GAME'S ONE THING. ACTUALLY STALKING A HUMAN BEING--

NO, JUPITER, A SAVAGE, AN APE-MAN. THE MOST DANGEROUS PREY OF ALL.

IT SHOULD BE A MAGNIFICENT HUNT...

NEXT - CARNAGE!

GARFIELD

OH, NO! MY WATCH HAS STOPPED!

I'VE MISSED GARFIELD'S MEALTIME

PETS HAVE A WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'VE MISSED THEIR MEALTIME

I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU'RE LATE

sport

Runners prepare for 10 tough kilometres

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — A 10,000 metre marathon race under the slogan "Sports for the Public" will start on Friday at 4 p.m., as part of the activities marking Independence and Army Day.

The race, which is an annual affair being held for the second year, is organized by the Amman Marriott Hotel in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Jordan Military Sports Council. Marriott General Manager Hilda Aguilar, speaking at a press conference, said the race is open to all members of the public irrespective of sex.

He said prizes will be awarded to the first three finishers in both the men's and women's divisions. There will also be consolation prizes.

Mr. Aguilar said that part of the proceeds to be realized from runners' registration fees of JD 3 will be donated to Al-Husseini Society for the Physically Handicapped.

Over 40 members of the Armed Forces are expected to take part in the race.

The starting and finishing point of the race is the Marriott Hotel. From the hotel, the runners will go through Jubat Hussein via Firas Circle, and thence to the city centre, passing Zahm Circle. Going along Prince Mahammad Street they will run up the hill to the First Circle and proceed to second and third circles. From Third Circle they will run along Hussein ibn Ali Street, past the General Intelligence Directorate and under the Shmeisani overpass. Finally, the remaining hardy runners will turn right, through Shmeisani once more and arrive back at the Marriott.

A similar race organized last year over the same distance was won by Fayed Juma' with a time of 31 mins. 30 seconds in the men's division. Any Carlson came first in the women's division clocking 43 mins. 35 seconds.



The Basketball Federation, Sunday organised a series of activities in honour of pioneers of the game in Jordan dating back to the 1940s. Among the many distinguished personalities who took part in the

activities was the Minister of Youth and Culture, Mr. Mu'ann Abu Nawar. Picture above shows the Minister (second from left) in a line-up with team mates ready for a match.

Safe home at Festival marathon

By Tricia Weil

The International Jordanian Marathon Festival race over 10 kilometres took place in Amman last Friday. The race attracted a large number of people from various age groups. Winners were as follows:

Age group	Position	Time (mins/secs)
40 and over		
Anthony Goodwin	1	35.17
David Harvey	2	39.10
30-39		
Stan Stalla	1	38.32
James Clune	2	38.33
19-29		
Colin Tully	1	36.47
Ibrahim Al-Said	2	38.00
16-18		
Salem Al-Said	1	38.00
Lee Hayes	2	41.11
13-15		
Basim Al-Said	1	45.34
Under 12		
Michael Dash	1	52.28
Jermie Philippart	2	52.29
Ladies over 40		
Murhara Witt	1	1 hour 11 secs
13-15		
Natulle Haddad	1	54.01
Kim Houser	2	1 hr 7 mins 02secs

Don Burrows the oldest runner completed the race in 52.32 while the youngest athlete, Joshua Krajcar finished in 1 hour 13 mins 37 secs.

Fun And Fitness

By: Don Schneider, Ph.D.
United States Sports Academy

Muscle and Fat

TWO ESSENTIAL components of the human body are muscle and fat. However, there are many misconceptions concerning these two tissues, particularly when the subject of exercise is discussed.

Without going into great detail, the body contains two types of muscles: the voluntary or skeletal muscles, the involuntary muscles such as those around the major blood vessels, and heart muscle. During exercise, we are primarily concerned with the heart muscle which contracts to circulate the blood and the skeletal muscles which contract to move the body and its parts. Skeletal muscles make up about 40 per cent of the body weight of the typical male.

On the other hand, approximately 15-20 per cent of the average man's body is contained in the form of fat (adipose tissue). Fat is highly specialized tissue primarily used for the storage of energy in the form of triglycerides. The fat cell is composed of nearly 75 per cent storage fat (triglycerides) whereas the fat content of the muscle fiber is only about 7 per cent. Additional functions of fat are to provide heat insulation and protection for the body and the internal organs. Approximately 50 per cent of the body fat is contained under the skin and a large portion of the other half is located around the internal organs.

Thus, it should be apparent that fat and muscle are different tissues that are not interchangeable. In other words, fat is not converted to muscle during the process of physical training. Likewise, muscle is not changed to fat when the "well-trained" person becomes inactive.

In order to gain body fat, all a person need do is eat 1,000 extra calories a day for a gain of about 2 pounds of body fat per week. However, diet alone is insufficient to achieve a gain in fat. Normal growth has stopped. A person must stimulate skeletal muscle growth through high intensity exercise (i.e. usually weight training) and then provide the proper nutrients. High intensity exercise is the repetitive performance of a resistance movement such as weight lifting.

Long-distance running and other endurance training regimens either cause no change or a small increase in skeletal muscle growth. Furthermore, when the "trained" person becomes inactive and the stimulus for muscular growth is removed, the skeletal muscles become smaller (atrophy) and strength is lost.

International rugby match

The first international rugby match between the Jordan Rugby Football Centre and a Saudi Arabian side from Jeddah will take place today at the Geo. Wimpey site between the Eighth Circle and Swelleh. The Jordanian team has been selected from players in Amman and Aqaba. Kick off is at 4 pm.

French wins German open tennis tournament

HAMBURG (AP) — Yannick Noah of France won the last 11 games to defeat defending champion Jose Higueras of Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 Sunday to win the \$250,000 German open tennis championships.

A sellout crowd of 9,500 watched the exciting match on the clay courts of the Rotherbaum Club.

The sixth-seeded Noah earned \$42,500 for winning the biggest

title of his career and second consecutive tournament this year.

Noah, 23, has reached the final of his last three tournaments, losing in Lisbon before winning at Madrid, and his recent success comes with the French open beginning 23 May. "Physically I am very strong. I can keep the ball in play from the baseline and as soon as I can, come in and play my own game, which is playing the net, and that is usually hard to do on clay,"

said Noah. "If he continues this, he will have a good chance of winning the French open," said the French open champion, who won \$21,250.

Higueras, who has been troubled for the last two weeks by a painful injury in his playing elbow, said he would go to Rome to practice before deciding whether to play in the Italian open this week.

Intimate Starcasts

By Henry Artail

Week commencing 19 May, 1983

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

Your personality should definitely be your strong point in the working field throughout the whole of this coming week. You would do well to try to maintain a steady pace in this direction. In the social field, there is the possibility of one or two unexpected outings during your way during this week, and these should add an extra sparkle to your leisure periods.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

You appear to have a very smooth running week ahead of you as far as your working life is concerned, and preparations for a future journey connected with your career, should take up quite a lot of your time. This should be a week during which you are able to achieve a long lasting success from a romantic attachment which may have been just a little strained recently. Be careful not to rush things too much.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

Where your social life is concerned, it will be your own personality that will pay you dividends this week, in this direction, and you appear to have quite a hectic time. Workwise, an associate who, from past experience, you know to have an unusually sharp foresight, could try to introduce you to a new way of making things more comfortable for you and a new one in the future, and you would be well advised to accept any help or advice.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

Where your business life is concerned, you would be very well advised to try to be just a little more serious minded this week, or you could be the cause of just a little annoyance to your associates. There could also be a few changes at work during this week. In your personal life, do not be afraid to commit yourself where romantic attachments are concerned, for the indications are extremely favourable.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

A confident outlook will influence others around you in your favour, and you will almost certainly make some very steady headway where your career is concerned now. Where your social life is concerned, a rather unusual invitation is quite likely to be received around Wednesday or Thursday, which could have far reaching consequences. Unusual surroundings at the weekend appear to be indicated.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

Where your working life is concerned, you can expect a turn for the better during this week, as one person is likely to disappear from the scene, and you could very easily take a step up. Your financial position appears to improve quite a lot during this week. The romantic side of your life will show encouraging trends, and your weekend plans will have to be altered in order to include a surprise visitor.

Thursday 19 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Your health will show great signs of improvement during the coming twelve months, but you should not take any risks with your nerves as over time yourself.

Where money matters are concerned, these should improve, and there is also a clear indication of promotion in your job.

Family affairs which may have been giving you a lot of anxiety just lately, will straighten out during September or October. A very gay social event will bring you all together, and all the petty little jealousies of the few months will disappear.

An opportunity to travel may be offered to you within the next three months, and you should be very wise to seek advice from someone else before making any firm plans in this respect.

Friday 20 May

Birthday Greetings to You. This coming year shows signs of bringing you much good fortune and happiness. Although you have been through a bad spell lately, this is now over, and you can look forward to such happiness. Someone will come into your life who will alter it completely, and your secret ambitions will be realised.

Any children born in your family towards the end of October should be very talented and make you very proud of them.

You will receive a very pleasant surprise visit from an old friend during the next two months. As a result, you may be offered the opportunity to travel, and better your position in every way.

Health should be good for the next two months. Watch your nerves from September, and do not let the immediate family put too much on your shoulders.

Saturday 21 May

Birthday Greetings to you. Socially, this is going to be a really bright year for you. New friendships will bring you an unexpected piece of luck, and there is every sign of much prosperity within the next three months.

Where your working life is concerned, promotion in your job is indicated very soon. Although you may have been disappointed at the lack of recognition over the hard work you have put in, this work will now reap great rewards for you.

Although you may have been worried about your health lately, you should find that this coming year, your nerves and whole constitution will improve. By your next anniversary, you will be feeling 100 per cent fit and ready for anything.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

The indications are that any opportunity could come your way some time during this coming week, which will enable you to work more on your initiative, and you should be well able to cope. Where romance is concerned, it would appear that your romantic partner will bring a very happy surprise upon you during this coming week, and at the same time, family ties will be strengthened.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

At work, a colleague could at long last make up their mind regarding a certain issue at work, and the decision they arrive at should more than please you. Those circumstances will enter your social programme during this coming week, and in connection with this, romance could take a turn very much for the better. The indications are that you could be doing quite a large amount of travelling this week.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

Now is the time when you should try and push your point where working interests are concerned, for there is every indication that things will turn out to your liking. Your leisure time should keep you very busy during this coming week, and a close personal friendship will be very much to the fore. In the domestic field there could be a slight problem concerning a youngster, but this should soon be solved.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

As far as your working life is concerned, team work is the key word during this week, to ensure success where long term interests are concerned. Try to spend more time this week, with an old friend who may be feeling slightly neglected. In the financial field, you would do well to try to economise as much as possible this week, and do not lend money to friends or relatives.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

This should be a week for action and movement, for you may find that these things play an important part. Those around you will be looking to you for a lead in what is best for them to do. In your personal life, a difference of opinion with a near one will be settled during this coming week, with a peace offering from the other person. Where your health is concerned, you should be feeling very fit.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

You could find yourself receiving a little more co-operation from your working colleagues during this week, which could give you the opportunity of providing an idea which you may have had for some time past. In the domestic field, there could be a clash of new points for you early in the week, but things should be improved as the week progresses.

Birthday Information Charts

Monday 23 May

Birthday Greetings to You. In the financial field the indications are that this will be an excellent year for you. All the hard work you put into a certain project is beginning to bear fruit, and you will receive recognition from a most unexpected and unusual quarter.

In the domestic field, family ties will be strong, and any children born between the months of June and September will be exceptionally talented.

Some advice which you may have given to someone about three months ago will help to realise their secret ambition, and you will receive very deep gratitude and appreciation from this quarter.

Your personal problems may take a little sorting out, and do not let jealousy into any decision which you may have to make at the end of next month.

Sunday 22 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Do not let jealousy colour your outlook during the next couple of months. You are being too suspicious of a certain person close to you, and may hurt them very much.

A secret ambition regarding your career will be realised some time during the coming twelve months. All the hard work which you have been putting in and thought unrecognised will now bear fruit.

Although financially, the beginning of next month will prove to be rather worrying, there is a piece of really good fortune coming your way, and by your next anniversary, you will be more secure than ever before.

If your health worries you during the next few months, the indications are that it will improve after that, and by your next anniversary, you will be feeling 100 per cent fit.

Tuesday 24 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Finances do not appear to keep pace with the hard work you have been putting into your job. Do not worry about this, and try to be patient. You will eventually be more than rewarded for your pains.

Although you do not anticipate it, a very good friend of yours will do you a very good turn towards the end of next month.

Where your health is concerned, this would be a good year for you to try to relax more, especially around the September to November period. Try not to let the immediate family put too much on your shoulders.

The next twelve months hold many changes for you, both in your working and in your personal life.

Wednesday 25 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Do not let the interference of a member of your family put you off a new project which you will start towards the end of next month. Keep your own counsel and listen to your own judgement over the matter.

As far as your career is concerned, there is every indication of a sudden success within the next two months. You have put much hard work into your job lately, and now you will reap the reward for it.

If an offer to travel comes your way, you would be well advised to seek the advice of someone in a more responsible position at your job. To go abroad just now could upset plans which are indicated for your success and future.

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